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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-127 *1 July 1996*

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Russia: FBIS Presidential Election Report 28 Jun

WA2906001496

[FBIS Report] ***This is the last in a series of FBIS reports on Russian regional developments in the campaign for the presidential election. It is based solely on Russian media reporting from Moscow and provincial sources.***

Yabloko Regional Branches To Appeal to Yavlinskiy To Endorse Yeltsin Despite Yabloko leaders' reservations toward endorsing President Boris Yeltsin in advance of the second round, several Yabloko regional branches have stepped forward for Yeltsin.

The Russian news agency RIA (20 June) reported that the regional branches were ready to ask Yavlinskiy to endorse Yeltsin in advance of the election runoff. The report claimed that "appeals" were being drafted by Yabloko branches in Buryatia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Mariy-El, and Tatarstan republics, in Khabarovsk and Primorskiy Krays, and in Kaluga, Yaroslavl, Voronezh, Kursk, Kirov, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kamchatka, Magadan, Lipetsk, Amur, Arkhangelsk, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen oblasts. According to ITAR-TASS (22 June), "most" Yabloko members representing the regions think that Yabloko "should not play with the opposition image, but should openly express support" for democratic reform by endorsing Yeltsin. The 20 June RIA report also noted that Yeltsin's and Yavlinskiy's support groups in Krasnodar and Altay Krays and in Belgorod, Kemerovo, Sverdlovsk, Rostov, Tver, and Kamchatka oblasts have had "normal" and "cooperative" relations since May.

However, national Yabloko leaders, apparently-desiring to maintain a "Kremlin outsider" image, are wary of entering the Yeltsin camp. ITAR-TASS (22 June), reporting on Yabloko's 22 June congress, cited Yabloko leaders as believing that the party's status as "an opposition movement may be lost" if it openly supports Yeltsin. According to the report, some party leaders want to urge Yabloko voters to "make a choice" on 3 July, but to "rule out" voting for Zyuganov or voting "against all candidates." Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy stopped short of endorsing Yeltsin on 21 June (NTV), claiming it was "naive" to believe a leader can make his voters follow his call.

Government Approves Rural Support Program A recently approved federal program for support to rural areas may be an effort to rally the Russian countryside/hinterland — much of which is pro-Communist — to vote for Yeltsin in the second round. INTERFAX (20 June) reported that the government approved a federal program for developing small and medium-sized towns by 2005. The program includes "urgent" social and economic support measures and improvement of infrastructure, according to First Deputy Economics Minister Andrey Shapovalyants. He said that the federal budget will set aside 6.2 trillion rubles for the program in 1997-98.

Zyuganov Camp a "Sore Winner" in Tatarstan INTERFAX (26 June) reported that Zyuganov supporters are contesting the first-round election results in Tatarstan, where Zyuganov won by a surprisingly large margin of 15 percent. Vadim Solovyov, representing Zyuganov's support group in Tatarstan, alleged that vote records submitted to the local electoral commission in Kazan did not match those forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), adding that his group's examination revealed that Yeltsin received "45,540 'extra' votes," causing other candidates including Zyuganov to "lose" votes. Zyuganov received 46.96 percent of Tatarstan's vote in the first-round to Yeltsin's 29.89 percent (ITAR-TASS, 17 June).

Nalchik Paper Questions Cossack Loyalty to Yeltsin Kabardino-Balkaria's GAZETA YUGA (21 June) highlighted the independence of the Russian electorate by reporting the diverse sympathies of the Cossacks in Kabardino-Balkaria. The article noted that, despite Tersk unit Cossack ataman Vladimir Shevtsov's pre-election endorsement of Yeltsin, Cossacks supported Zyuganov and Lebed in the first round. The article added that Aleksandr Dirin, Cossack chief of staff in the Tersk-Malkinskiy district, was Lebed's authorized representative.

Naina Yeltsin Leaping Into Boris' Pork Barrel? ITAR-TASS (27 June) reported that Yeltsin's wife Naina procured special equipment for a Tambov hospital. According to the report, Yeltsina informed Yakov Farber, chief physician of the Archbishop Luke Hospital in Tambov, that she had found an unnamed-sponsor willing to allocate $100,000 for the purchase of a Japanese echoendoscope for the hospital.

Russia: Yeltsin Discusses Election, Lebed, Foreign Policy, CIS

LD3006151896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] Shortly before the decisive second round of voting in the Russian presidential elections President Boris Yeltsin answered questions from Interfax.

INTERFAX: Three days are left till the runoff elections. The whole country is anxiously looking forward to their results. Your rival holds daily briefings and is constantly in the public eye while you prefer to stay away from the public at large during the last days before the elections.

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What is the reason? What have you been busy with these days?

YELTSIN: I have been working every day with my election headquarters, holding consultations with allies, negotiating the composition and structure of the future government, controlling the enforcement of my decrees, meeting the leaders of the regions, the head of the cabinet. I have been working very much with journalists giving dozens of TV and radio interviews to the local media. I even almost lost my voice.

As for my rival, he has one tactic, I have another. Every day he gives news conferences and makes the emphasis on violent anti-Yeltsin propaganda while I deal with concrete matters.

And in general I think that deeds speak for a politician who is the incumbent president.

INTERFAX: After the first round of elections you offered a high official post to Aleksandr Lebed. What are the guarantees that you will not dismiss him after the second round?

YELTSIN: I have never traded in government posts and will not let anyone do that.

Mine is not the only signature under the decree on the appointment of Aleksandr Lebed. I think that signatures of the millions of voters who cast their ballots for him on June 16 stand next to it.

Their trust cannot be deceived. I am sure Aleksandr Lebed has come to work earnestly and for long. He is a person who can beat crime and restore order.

INTERFAX: You have managed to reach understanding with Aleksandr Lebed. But many Russian voters are waiting for an answer to the question: what about Yavlinskiy and his Yabloko movement?

YELTSIN: I consider Grigoriy Yavlinskiy my ally. I believe the people who voted for him in the first round will do what he has recommended them: come to the polling stations and vote against Communists, that is vote not so much for Yeltsin even, as for themselves, their children, for new free Russia.

I have instructed Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to submit proposals on the structure and composition of the new Russian government within two weeks after the elections.

I hope Grigoriy Yavlinskiy will join the work. I highly appreciate his professionalism.

By the way, many of the proposals from his election program are being carried out into life.

INTERFAX: Nevertheless, at its recent congress Yabloko formulated several questions addressed directly to you but here has been no answer so far.

YELTSIN: I am ready to answer now, through Interfax.

As for the constitutional amendments on which Yabloko insists, I find them extremely dangerous today. The Constitution is the main foundation for political stability in the country.

But the problems raised by the movement, in particular on the clear division of powers of the president and government and on a balance of powers can be resolved. I think this should be done with the help of the draft constitutional law on the government which I am ready to finalize with the participation of Yavlinskiy as well as through presidential decrees increasing the independence and responsibility of the government.

I also find it very important to form a non-Communist majority in the State Duma on which the government could rely. I am convinced that the government and parliament should work in close interaction.

As for the question on promoting democratic processes in the provinces and strengthening local self-government, I see several directions for resolving the problem.

Firstly, the role of the Federation Council should be raised on which the heads of both executive and legislative bodies of Federation members work. Actually my latest meeting with the Federation Council speaker Yegor Stroyev dealt with that.

Secondly, soon work should end on a draft law on the principles and order of power sharing between federal and provincial government bodies. It should greatly strengthen the role of executive power in Federation members.

The council on local self-government under the president recently held a session which noticed a curious fact: In the cities where the experiment for promoting local self-government has been held for the second year, people resolutely voted for new Russia and the continuation of our strategy on June 16 even in places belong to the so-called Red Belt.

On the situation in Chechnya. The war in Chechnya has lost wind. Peace processes are on the rise. Scores of communities have already discussed the draft treaty on power sharing between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic.

And this means peace will come inevitably.

For this very reason I signed the decree on the stage-by-stage withdrawal of federal troops. By now about 1,000

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servicemen have been pulled out from the territory of the republic, 4,000 more will be withdrawn by July 12.

When I was in Groznyy, I promised our boys that only contract soldiers would be sent to Chechnya and other hot spots as of the end of this year. And I am fulfilling my promise.

The last question I received from Yabloko is who is going to had the power bodies and what changes can be expected in this sector of government. I must openly say that appointments will be finalized after the second round of elections, in particular this concerns the defense minister. I want to stress that I am ready for consultations with Yabloko representatives on all the above problems.

INTERFAX: In an interview with Samara Television you said you do not support the idea of a coalition government. What is your understanding of a coalition government?

YELTSIN: We have already gone through various coalitions according to quotas set by the Central Committee (of the CPSU). That's enough. There must be only professionals in the government who should work as a single mechanism and carry out the strategy of advancing the country. All political likes and ambitions must be left outside the door of the White House. Only business there. [as received] Discussions should be left for time left free from work.

I am ready for any coalition on such conditions.

But we do not need coalitions in which every person will defend and advocate one's own line or the line of his party, they can even be harmful.

INTERFAX: In this context what is your idea of the structure of the future government?

YELTSIN: The structure of the future cabinet directly depends on the extremely important problems now facing the country.

As a result four key blocs emerge.

Firstly, social policies, including social security, labor and employment. Secondly, economy and finances. Thirdly, industrial and agricultural development. And finally, legal policies and federal questions.

In my opinion the first deputy prime minister should head the basic group for finances and economy and be fully responsible for its operation.

In this group the Finance Ministry must be strengthened first of all. It will be responsible not only for the proper use of the budget, but primarily for collecting the revenues.

With this purpose all services collecting taxes, duties and other budget payments and bodies controlling their receipt can be subordinated to the Finance Ministry.

The operation of the Economy Ministry should also change considerably. It should give priority to the functional and regional principles of planning and considerably strengthen control functions, primarily over federal and regional programs. It is this Ministry that should be responsible for the government economic policy in the provinces and consequently carry it out.

Despite the fundamental structural changes I think that at the time of serious economic reforms the government must strengthen, not weaken economic regulation. This applies first of all to the basic branches of the economy: the fuel and energy complex, transport, engineering, the defence industry, agriculture and others.

The social set of questions is undoubtedly one of the most important.

It is impermissible when the social policy is carried out by numerous structures independent of each other and often of the government and the responsibility for their failures is placed on the president.

In 1991 when the country was the brink of a social and economy abyss the stake was on liberating individual initiative, on economic reforms. I believe the main objective was reached and the July 16 elections proved that once again.

But the solution of the most vital problems is not keeping up with economic changes, our social programs have been slow and insufficient, order in the country, economy and social life is still lacking.

This means that the main thing for us now is order and care, and now we have everything necessary for directly tackling these matters.

INTERFAX: Will any control be exercised over the payment of wages and pensions after the elections? What measures have been applied against the saboteurs?

YELTSIN: Such control will be exercised permanently. As many as 125 criminal cases have been initiated in this connection. Two industrial managers are serving their terms already.

The prosecutors have lodged more than 2,000 suits to recover the unpaid wages. All of them are being satisfied. Several dozen managers have been dismissed.

As a result of these administrative moves alone, the workers have received wages worth more than 3 trillion rubles.

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INTERFAX: How can the victory of Yeltsin or Zyuganov tell on the economic situation in Russia?

YELTSIN: If the Russian citizens decide to promote the course the country opted for five years ago, the Russian economy will gain at least 300 trillion rubles and $10 billion this year alone.

This will help normalize the state financial system, avoid financial tremors and ensure timely social payments from the state budget.

Obviously, no one should be expecting anything of this kind if Zyuganov wins.

Most of the economic pledges made by the Communist Party are simply unrealistic. Take, for one, the promise to lower prices on fuel 1,000 times for the countryside. It is as unreal as jumping to a height of five meters. Meanwhile, our government is advancing along the path of realistic economy — the farmers have received fuel against a commodity credit to be repaid during the period up to 2005. Electricity tariffs for production needs in the countryside have been lowered by half, a fund of soft crediting is being established, and a comprehensive federal program for the development of agriculture and related industries has been adopted. As you see, it's work without any slogans.

INTERFAX: What would you say about Russia's foreign-policy priorities. What would you include in the sphere of Russia's foreign-policy interests?

YELTSIN: The whole world is the sphere of Russian interests.

But there are three priorities I would like to speak about in more detail.

First, broader and stronger cooperation between the CIS countries; the Belarusian-Russian community and the "union of the four".

Second, the consolidation of our achievements in relations with the West, which can be clearly seen from the meeting in Lyons.

And, finally, we should attach more attention to the eastern aspect of our foreign policy.

I must say that during my recent visit to China I saw once again that the potential of economic cooperation with the Asian and Pacific region has not been used even 10 percent.

As to the territorial claims laid upon us by certain countries, I must state in unambiguous terms: "We are not laying any territorial claims on anyone and will not accept anyone's territorial claims, either." I made this point clear during my visit to our western-most point — Kaliningrad.

I have failed to visit the Kurils Islands, although I planned to do so, but I will necessarily go to the Kurils after the elections. You may be sure that the presidential banner will be raised in Kunashir.

Generally speaking, there are quite a few foreign-policy problems we are to tackle.

For instance, Russia will strongly respond to all attempts to change the status of the Black Sea straits and turn the Black Sea into one more stronghold for the NATO navy and non-Black Sea countries.

I would like to tell all those who still have doubts, that Russia will not leave the Baltic region. We shall strengthen and develop our military base in Baltiysk. Peter the Great opened up the window on Europe and reached the Baltic region, and we must never board this window up.

Naturally, Russia opposes even the hypothetical possibility of NATO spreading its influence on the Baltic countries. Not long ago, I asked U.S. president Bill Clinton that the U.S. make efforts to explain to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia our concern about this problem.

We advocate a modern and post-bloc system of European security.

Generally speaking, it would be a delusion to think that we live in some "rosy" world. Life is a complicated thing. Vestiges of the past are still making themselves felt.

Look at last year's figures. Eleven agents of foreign intelligence services who had worked under the roofs of their embassies were caught red-handed and ousted from Russia. Twenty agents from among Russian citizens, who worked for foreign special services, were arrested. Sixty seven attempts to disclose secret information were prevented. So, there are quite a few things that are keeping our security services busy.

INTERFAX: Could you detail on the situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States?

YELTSIN: Much has been done: there are several hundred treaties and agreements alone. The main thing now is their implementation. This particularly refers to the relationships between Russia and Belarus and the "Treaty of the Four" — between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

I am sure that the approval by the Ukrainian parliament of a new constitution will speed up the solution of the problems associated with the basing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. I hope that after this the Russian-Ukrainian relations will be what they have always been: good-neighborly, mutually-advantageous and fraternal.

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To preserve a single cultural and information space is one of the most important directions of our cooperation with the CIS countries. And all of you know this well — at the recent meeting in Moscow we agreed that we shall create on the basis of Interfax an information channel of communication among the CIS countries. Significantly, this was initiated by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the proposal was unanimously backed by the presidents of other countries.

INTERFAX: Boris Nikolayevich, this is obviously your last interview before the presidential runoff. Counted hours remain before the opening of the ballot stations.

What would you like to tell the voters?

YELTSIN: I would like to say what concerns me.

Our free Russia is only six years old. It's a small age for the history of a state.

Everything new does not come easily. That is why I feel your doubts.

Those who on June 16 voted for the Communists, backed not the return to the past. They voted against the difficulties of the new life. I understand them. Many things in our life hurt my heart today. I see and know how difficult it is today.

But if on July 3 our grudge and tiredness will vote for us, we shall face the trouble!

That is why, we must stop dividing the country into the Whites and the Reds!

I ask everyone of you, dear voters, to set your routine business aside on July 3 and come to the polling stations!

On that day we shall not only vote for Yeltsin or Zyuganov. We shall vote for ourselves, for our families and for the future of our children.

It is necessary to make the right choice.

Russia: Yeltsin Urges Citizens To Vote for 'New Russia'

LD0107104196 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president appealed to the people of Russia today. We have just received a recording of this. [video shows Yeltsin speaking to camera from behind a desk]

[Begin Yeltsin recording] People of Russia,

On 3 July the last and decisive round of the presidential election will take place. On that day you will be voting not just for Yeltsin or Zyuganov. You will be voting for yourselves, for your families, for the future of your children.

On that day you will decide how to live from now on. That will be the most important choice. So one must not make mistakes, and one must not stay away either.

I know that there are people who do not want to vote. They just do not believe that anything depends on their vote. They are wrong. Today every vote is decisive.

On 3 July one must not stay at home. If you do not vote, you are thereby also making a choice, but a choice against Russia. It is either for or against — there is no third way here.

It is always difficult to do something new. That is why I can feel your doubts. Those who voted for the Communists on 16 June voted not for a return to the past but against the difficulties of the new life. I understand those people. I myself feel aggrieved by many things in our life, they pain my heart. I can see how difficult things are today. But if on 3 July our hurts and our weariness vote instead of us we shall be in trouble. Let us not lose heart. For our own sakes, for the sake of our children, for the sake of the future of Russia.

On 16 June the majority of you voted for a free and normal life and you stated firmly that it was time to unite freedom with order, with concern for people. I accepted the expression of your will as a direct guide to action. We have one Russia, one future, one way toward a normal life. And so, enough of dividing the country into Whites and Reds, enough of rushing from one side to the other. Freedom, order, concern for people — these are the bases of a happy and prosperous life.

I am firmly convinced that we have chosen the correct course. I know exactly what must be done for this. The strength and the will and the resolve exists. What is needed now is your support.

Dear voters, I ask each of you on 3 July to set aside your normal activities. Come and vote. Vote for the new Russia. Only together shall we be victorious. [end recording]

Russia: Yeltsin, Ilyushin Meet To Discuss Election Issues

LD2906100496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0954 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 29 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Saturday met with Viktor Ilyushin, first presidential aide and head of Yeltsin's electoral headquarters, the presidential press service told Interfax.

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Ilyushin briefed Yeltsin on the electoral headquarters' activity in order to include in Yeltsin's election platform some provisions of the election programs of Yabloko movement leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Gen. Aleksandr Lebed who was appointed Russian Security Council Secretary and renowned eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fedorov. These three presidential candidates failed to qualify for the second round of the presidential elections.

Ilyushin also briefed Yeltsin on interaction with the regional electoral headquarters in the runup to the runoff planned for July 3. They in particular considered the need to combine efforts of Russian reform supporters for the second round of the elections, the press service said.

Ilyushin informed Yeltsin of the implementation of his instructions given during the president's visits to the Russian regions.

Yeltsin set tasks for his electoral headquarters for July 2- 3.

The president and his first aide also discussed a plan to reorganize the Presidential Council, Yeltsin's press service said.

Russia: Zyuganov Proposes Commission To Certify Health of MPs

LD2906202596 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Arina Sharapova] As promised, the communist leader [Gennadiy Zyuganov] held his regular, daily news conference for the mass media today.

[Correspondent Olga Mezhenina] The communist leader said he had held consultations with the country's most important and most influential politicians, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Yegor Stroyev, Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov, Aleksandr Lebed, as well as with the patriarch and leading academicians in all fields. As a result of all those talks Zyuganov believes, for some reason, that the situation in the country is continuing to deteriorate. Zyuganov placed a somewhat unexpected interpretation on the fact that virtually all the contenders in the first round of the presidential election have called on their supporters, at the very least, not to vote for the communists. In his view not a single serious political force supported Boris Yeltsin. The chairman of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] is completely happy with his bloc and categorically rejects claims that his camp is divided.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] When I arrived just now, I was asked where Viktor Anpilov was. You should ask his wife, not me. No doubt she knows where he is. [end recording]

[Mezhenina] Taking advantage of rumors that the president has lost his voice, Zyuganov proposed that a state medical commission should be set up for the certification of public servants. It is not clear why Gennadiy Andreyevich has not already tried to put this forward as a legislative initiative in the State Duma. However, the implementation of this plan would unquestionably give many communists food for thought. Would they want to accept positions of power if their health was to be subjected to such stringent control, especially as there are quite a few people of advanced age among the old guard of Zyuganov's comrades in arms?

The doctors' attention might also be drawn to the CPRF leader himself. He is well-known for making frequent, unsubstantiated changes in his key policies. Quite recently he was saying that cooperation with Zhirinovskiy was possible. But now that Vladimir Volfovich has publicly refused to support the communists, Zyuganov has started calling him pro-establishment. Specialists might also pay attention to Zyuganov's permanently morbid and almost invariably negative reaction to coverage of his activities on TV.

[Begin Zyuganov recording] Yesterday's presenter on the first television channel spent 20 minutes lecturing me. She should have studied the article in the law on presidential elections, which clearly states that she has no right whatsoever under the law to comment on any of my pronouncements. Her job is to inform. I assure you that we will take steps to ensure that everyone in the country obeys the law. [end recording]

[Sharapova] All that remains for me to do is to read out the law on Russian presidential elections. Article 40 of this law says, and I quote: Reports on election campaigning by candidates, election associations, election blocs, and sponsoring groups must be broadcast as a separate round-up, usually at the start of the program, without any comment. Since news conferences and canvassing are completely different things, I cannot accept that I have broken the law in any way. [video shows Zyuganov arriving for news conference at House of Journalists accompanied by Aleksandr Podberezkin, deputy chairman of the Duma's committee on international affairs, then the news conference itself]

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Russia: Zyuganov Seeks 'Objective Information' on Yeltsin's Health

LD0107111996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1020 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 1 (Interfax) — Presidential candidate and Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov is worried that his rival in presidential elections, President Boris Yeltsin "has been absent from the public scene for four days now."

He told a press conference in Moscow Monday that "he would like to know why there is no objective information about the president's health, why Yeltsin has been isolated and why all of his earlier appointed events have been cancelled."

Zyuganov believes that the government must publish a report on the president's health.

Meanwhile, Boris Yeltsin Monday met with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and, according to Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, is to meet with the members of his campaign staff.

Russia: Zyuganov Says Ailing President Cannot Run Russia

LD2906105296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 29 (Interfax) — Leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and presidential hopeful Gennadiy Zyuganov says reports on "Boris Yeltsin's malady cover Yeltsin's inability to run Russia and bear responsibility for the functioning of complicated systems and for his own words."

Although he pointed out that Yeltsin's health condition "is a topic for medical discussion," Zyuganov held Yeltsin's closest associates, who had planned "too much activity" for the incumbent's electoral campaign, to blame for Yeltsin's new illness.

"The strain of rock concerts and long-leg field trips rendered him unable to visit nearby places," Zyuganov told newsmen in Moscow.

Yeltsin cancelled three meetings in the past few days and an address to a farmers' conference Friday. "If he is really laid up with laryngitis, why cancel meetings with public servants, including Duma speaker?" Zyuganov wondered.

Eight or even ten times over the past two years Yeltsin went for medical treatment to Sochi and spent five months in a hospital last year. "But one cannot enjoy good health if one has turned 66 and has had two serious heart attacks — any general practitioner will tell you that," Zyuganov said.

Zyuganov accused Yeltsin of inability to meet his international commitments. "With all this talk of the G-7 summit in Lyon, Mr Yeltsin appears unable to attend the event and Mr Chernomyrdin comes a few hours late or just on time for entertainment."

If he is elected President, Zyuganov will "set up a government-sponsored medical commission which will be entitled, on the one hand, to check the health condition of any public servant and voice its conclusions and, on the other, keep certain information of medical character secret."

Russia: Pro-Zyuganov Paper Says Yeltsin in 'Profoundly Ill Health'

MM2806184496 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Saveliy Dmitriyev: "Sick Yeltsin Turns Down TV Debates"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Something has finally gone awry on the president's conveyor belt of agitprop. First the news agencies carried Boris Nikolayevich's statement crudely turning down the idea of a TV debate with Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the people's patriotic coalition.

Then came the news of embarrassment at the Kremlin, when the president was due to attend a high-profile agriculture conference. But... Premier Chernomyrdin could only tell the 5,000 agrarians gathered in the Kremlin State Palace that Boris Nikolayevich would not be coming because the "tension of the past few days of the election campaign has affected the head of state's voice to a certain extent."

Admittedly, according to Chernomyrdin, that morning he had spoken to the president by phone, and B. Yeltsin had personally instructed him to take part in the conference. Because of this, Viktor Stepanovich even had to postpone for a few hours his flight to Lyon, where on the head of state's instructions he will be taking part in the meeting of the "G-8" countries.

Let us overlook the confusion about how a president with a nonfunctioning voice could have telephoned the premier. And let us assume only a slight throat problem. It is then unclear why the president simply failed to take part in the conference. We would recall that at the start of his election campaign in Yekaterinburg Boris Yeltsin was in a similar situation. Nonetheless he not only appeared before the voters but made a speech.

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Confused journalists evidently rushed off to attack Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev. And it was only after a certain amount of confusion that he was able to state that he did not understand the "heightened vigilance and concern of some of the media" in connection with Boris Yeltsin's absence from the All-Russia Conference of Agro-Industrial Complex Workers.

The press secretary's announcement that "the president is in good shape," that B. Yeltsin had spent all of Friday working on papers, and that he had even met with members of hit campaign headquarters clearly sounded unconvincing. Admittedly, Sergey Medvedev had to confirm that the president had "indeed lost" his voice. But the reason given was pretty fantastic. It turns out that, according to the press secretary, it was due to the large number of public speeches and interviews that B. Yeltsin has given of late. And this against the backdrop of what amounts to the president's disappearance from public view. We would recall that over the past few days we have predominantly had coverage of texts in his name. And on Thursday the television showed only one of Boris Nikolayevich's meetings — with Ivan Rybkin.

In this situation, despite what the Kremlin propagandists might like, the "president's hoarse voice" and Yeltsin's peevish refusal to take part in a TV debate with Zyuganov look like official recognition of the profoundly ill health of presidential hopeful Yeltsin and of his continual inability to observe and carry out elementary democratic procedures. Clearly, more medical procedures are indicated for him....

Russia: Lebed Says Yeltsin's Health Is 'Normal'

LD2906111296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 29 Jun 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shvetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 Jun (Itar-Tass) — "Russian President Boris Yeltsin's health is "normal," Aleksandr Lebed, presidential national security aide and Russian National Security Council secretary, said today. Lebed is taking part in the celebrations of the second anniversary of the 45th independent special purpose regiment of airborne troops, and in a conversation with correspondents he replied to a question as to how the head of state is feeling.

"The president is in normal health, he has lost his voice," Aleksandr Lebed said.

Russia: Yeltsin's Health, Changing Tactics Viewed

LD3006184996 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jun 96

[From the "Zerkalo" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Svanidze] The president was due to meet Russian rural leaders on Friday [28 Jun] but he lost his voice and Viktor Chernomyrdin held the meeting with them in his place. Yeltsin was shown [on television] during his meeting with his staff and later during his conversation with his first aide, Viktor Ilyushin. [video shows brief clips of meetings] Despite this, Gennadiy Zyuganov was of course, unable to let slip such an opportunity and at his next news conference spoke about the president's illness.

Yeltsin's vocal chords give out occasionally. We remember this from his speech in Yekaterinburg on 16 February. [video shows Yeltsin speaking hoarsely] After this speech Yeltsin, as is known, conducted his election campaign most energetically. Although he began the campaign as a rank outsider, lagging more than 10 percent behind Zyuganov in all the polls, Yeltsin ended it as clear favorite.

Now, in the final stage of the campaign he has clearly changed his tactics. I think that he has simply got tired of dancing at rock concerts and has started to look at what Zyuganov is doing. This is in accordance with Yeltsin's nature, as doing the unexpected is characteristic of him. In particular, it was planned to show, at the end of the Zerkalo program, a documentary film entitled: The President of Russia — about Yeltsin, as one might imagine. However, Yeltsin asked the channel's management not to show this film since he did not want to make use of his privileges on the eve of the second round. So, instead of a film about Yeltsin you will see a new film by Nikita Mikhalkov entitled: Alone with Russia.

We have learned that Yeltsin plans to hold a working meeting tomorrow with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin about the G-7 meeting in Lyon.

Russia: 'No Single Explanation' Seen for Yeltsin Indisposition

MM2806185096 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Lost His Voice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Statements claiming the rumors about Yeltsin's health are unfounded have been made by his press secretary Medvedev and by Belyayev, leader of the Russia Is Our Home faction in the State Duma

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— but they did not coordinate their statements. Because each had his own story.

According to Medvedev, the president had "lost his voice as a result of his numerous public speeches of recent days and of the number of interviews given to representatives of the regional press." According to Belyayev, the president had been absent from a conference of agricultural workers in the Kremlin because he had "lost" his voice during his Thursday meeting with Ivan Rybkin. According to a presidential aide who told Belyayev about the president's complaint, this could have been a result of the president's having stood in a downpour during a recent trip when, out of respect for a religious shrine, he turned down an umbrella.

In short, there is as yet no single explanation about the president's state of health. It was either Ivan Rybkin or the regional press that did the damage. Or maybe he did something to displease the shrine, despite turning down an umbrella. Clearly, this is not about umbrellas.

Russia: Zyuganov Urges Voters To Help 'Revive Russia'

MM0107091396 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Gennadiy Zyuganov: "Together We Will Revive Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Fellow-Countrymen!

When we go to the polls 3 July 1996, each of us will be thinking about the election and the consequences of our decision. What will the future be like? For our families, children, relatives, friends, acquaintances...motherland?

There are two roads before us.

One is the road we have traveled for the past five or 10 years. On it we have lost our country, half of our national wealth, the dignity of a great power, the respect of the entire world, and our confidence in a future for each one of us.

No less frightening is the fact that during these years we have lost several million of our fellow-countrymen. Our fellow citizens killed in the 200 wars and conflicts unleashed on our native soil, dead before their time, or not born at all.

On this road, apart from common benefits, they have stolen our faith in our own resources and our idea of ourselves as a great power. We are being taught to accept promises of humanitarian aid, handouts of second-hand clothes, and advice-cum-orders from abroad on what we should be doing and how we should be doing it. They are getting us accustomed to living on our knees and on the principle "That's one more day gone, thank God," without making any plans or looking ahead.

For the first time in Russia's 1,000-year history mothers and fathers feel guilty for leaving their children a half-destroyed, untidy home and for not even knowing how to give them a good start in life. After all, we cannot say today as we always used to — follow your conscience, my son, and everything will be fine.

And I am ashamed that I was once in the same party as the turncoats, destroyers, and traitors of the Fatherland who currently rule in the Kremlin.

People are trying to convince us that there is only this road — falsely dubbed reform. It is a road of deception, destruction, injustice, and unhappiness.

But there is another road. This is not a road to the past, as those who currently rule Russia are trying to assure you. It is Russia's road to itself, a road to spirituality, prosperity, plenty, and dignity. It is the road followed by countries against which the rest of the world now measures itself. These states live by the simple rule that the welfare of their citizens comes above all else. Everything else is subordinate to this. Nobody orders people to be endlessly patient and to wait for a bright future, the government is held responsible for every percentage point of decline in production, and nobody has even heard of not paying millions of people for years.

Can we not live by the same rules? Yes, we can. What do we need? Just one thing — for the president and government to be responsible to citizens for their actions and their results.

Do not believe the lies about us currently filling the airwaves and the pages of most publications.

How can there be any question of civil war on our part? We would recall just who has constantly threatened us with internecine warfare, saying malicious things about our grandfathers and great- grandfathers in their advertising. Who is trying again and again to reopen old wounds, virtually forcing voters to remember who their forefathers sided with — Reds or Whites? Who is trying to revive in society the long-dead syndrome of fratricide?

Look at your TV screens, and you will see how Mr. Yeltsin and the current "party of power" are doing this in their campaigning videos with a stubbornness that is making the entire country sick.

Capable only of destruction, they see modern politics in Russia only in this light — as a civil war whereby man turns against man, brother against brother, and son

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against father. They have no other concept of social struggle. Only through blood, only through murder, only through violence.

That was how they acted in August 1991 and October 1993. That is how they have been behaving in Chechnya for over two years. That is how they will always continue to behave everywhere if they remain in power.

Yeltsin's videos are a scenario of the future being prepared for Russia!

But we are striving for creation. Our goals are to create, to build, to produce. We welcome the creative efforts of Russian entrepreneurs. We will not reduce but augment our society with more spiritual and material benefits. We need neither internecine strife nor any upheavals.

How do the current forces dare to threaten Russia with gulags in the event of our coming to power? It is as if it was not the current government that has turned our entire people into slaves, not paying people for many months. Or if they are paid, the money is just enough to survive on. It is as if the Russian people were not being quietly destroyed, millions of people a year. It is as if it were not the current regime that is carrying out mass purges of "suspect persons" — not least in the Army — with a severity and lack of substantiation reminiscent of 1937. It is as if it were not Yeltsin and his regime who in 1993 created a huge concentration camp unprecedented in history right in the center of the capital, turning the Supreme Soviet building into a prison. It is as if he were not the one who turned into virtual exiles the 25 million Russians who found themselves, following the treacherous destruction of the Union, in the position of outcasts in many of the former Soviet republics.

After all, it was only under pressure from the people's patriotic forces, who got the Duma to denounce the Belovezhskaya Pushcha accords, that Yeltsin and his comrades-in-arms were forced, literally gritting their teeth, to take steps to bring about the state reintegration of the post-Soviet area. And to enter into unification with Belarus as a first decisive step. Thanks also to the wise flexibility of A. Lukashenka!

What right have those who have robbed every, I would emphasize — every! — Russian in the course of the Chubays-Gaydar reforms **to talk about property being confiscated from citizens in the event of a victory for the people's patriotic forces?** As if people cannot see the trickery whereby in the course of underhand election campaigning old people are getting back some pathetic crumbs of what was stolen from them by the "privatizers."

But what about the enterprises and plants that were built with the labor and money of several generations of our people? Facilities which have now ended up in God knows whose hands through some dirty dealings. After all, these were not just "carcasses" of buildings or "bits of iron" in the shape of machine tools and equipment. They were a source of money and goods for all of us. Where are those funds and goods? Stolen and squandered around the world!

How shameless do you have to be to threaten people that if we were to come to power we would confiscate their homes, apartments, money in their savings accounts, and the dollars which, as a last remedy against murderous inflation, some Russians now keep for a "rainy day."

Just think about it! From whom do we want to confiscate all this? From the many hundreds of thousands of members of the parties and movements making up our coalition? From the 25 million citizens who believe us and voted for us? From the ordinary citizens who share our hard life, believe in us, and are with us? From those who essentially are the people?

It turns out that we — the Russian people — would be confiscating, removing, and requisitioning everything from ourselves.... We would be waging war on ourselves and would be taking reprisals against ourselves. What vile garbage!

When we come to power everyone will be firmly confident about the present and the future.

— Confident that they will receive good money rather than symbolic pay for their work.

— Confident that their mothers, wives, and daughters will be surrounded by concern and attention and protected from the distortions of a mercenary way of life.

— Confident that their children will have free access to kindergarten, school, and university.

— Confident that if they fall sick they will receive free treatment and concessionary vacations at sanatoriums.

— Russian citizens will know that pensionable age will not be an age, statistically, that half the population fails to attain. And they will be able to live normally rather than just "survive" on the guaranteed state pension plus aid from social funds.

— We will put a stop to the shameful conditions endured by thousands of our fellow-countrymen — those rejected people whom the current authorities have doomed to a homeless existence.

— Citizens of great Russia, for whose revival we have been and are fighting, will once again be confident that the rogues of all stripes, criminals, and bandits currently

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poisoning their lives at will shall not be able to live freely in full sight of all. They will be in jail!

— People will stop doubting that if an enterprise director or owner of a firm starts getting rich on the back of unpaid workers' wages, the proper authorities will be immediately informed. And the courts will make sure such tricksters get their just deserts.

— Having a coalition government of people's patriotic forces, all Russian citizens will once again be sure that wherever they may be — on Russian territory, in the republics of the former USSR, or in the "far abroad" — nobody will be able to touch their money and property, their dignity or their lives. Because they will have the full prestige, influence, and power of the great and mighty Russian state behind them.

Our country is rich in everything — forests, rivers, and natural resources. We have the great cultural legacy of Tolstoy and Sholokhov, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich, we have the supreme scientific achievements of Mendeleyev and Korolev. Finally, we are the heirs of the abiding glory of Suvorov and Zhukov. So should we be poor and spiritually bankrupt, weak and demeaned?

We will do everything to ensure that the very name — RUSSIAN — becomes a symbol of independence, prestige, and strength in the world around us.

We are ready to rapidly and effectively solve all problems — to ensure that there are no hungry, homeless, or neglected people. We know how to do this.

It is not true that Russia has no resources. Our country — the richest in the world — has everything; it is only necessary to want the good of our Fatherland and our people. Our pastureland has not diminished, and the hands of our skilled workers have not forgotten how to produce genuine miracles. Our engineers know how to invent, our scientists how to think, our peasants how to sow and reap, our servicemen and policemen how to courageously protect their citizens.

We simply need to shrug off our slumbering unreliability and depression, pull ourselves together, be ashamed for what we have done to our own history and the work of our forefathers, and say to ourselves: We are Russia, we are a great people, and there is no power on earth that can conquer us. Believing in ourselves and starting to act — that is what we want. We must act tomorrow.

Dear fellow citizens, your choice will determine how we will all live in the future — whether there will be bread and peace in our homes. That is why I call on you to vote for my program, which will bring dignity back to the people, loyalty back to the motherland, greatness back to Russia, and security, plenty, and confidence in the future and their children's future back to people.

I hope for your support and thank in advance all those who believe in me, my program, and, therefore, the future of our country.

Give us your hand and together we will revive Russia.

Russia: Zyuganov Gives Televised Campaign Address

LD0107112696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0440 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Address by Gennadiy Zyuganov, Communist Party of the Russian Federation presidential candidate; from the "Elections '96" program—live or recorded; video shows Zyuganov seated in a conference room, speaking to camera]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings. As you see, my meeting with Mr. Yeltsin live on the air did not take place. I invited him several times. He was afraid, and today there is no point in it as he is in poor shape.

I expected him to report back to you on his achievements, but he has not done this. I would like simply to remind you that the last time he stood for election, he said we are going to live in a flourishing Russia, in a single unified state, but you can see what sort of unity we have today.

He stated that first of all, aid would be given to teachers and the national education system, and issued Decree No. 1. But today, the teachers are going off on leave without having received any money at all. He said that aid would be given to the countryside and 15 percent of the national wealth was allocated to the countryside. But today, the countryside is dying. In the countryside today, there is no paraffin. Many people already have to eat bran. And in effect, no equipment has been delivered for years.

Thus, he has not fulfilled a single one of his promises and he has based his whole election strategy on fear and lies. Attempts have been made from morning to night to frighten you by saying: Look out, this terrible Zyuganov will come with his team, they will drag you backwards, they will confiscate everything, they will take everything away, and everything will be ruined. You have been told all the time that Zyuganov will drag you backwards. But in effect, Russia has been rolled back to the time of the Pereyaslavskaya Rada [1654], when we united with our fraternal Ukraine. You have been told that Zyuganov will drag you backwards, but they themselves have rolled the country back to the

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times of the Caucasian War at the beginning of the last century. They said we would drag you back, but they themselves have caused the rise of banditry, crime, and abandoned children who existed at the end of the Civil War.

You have been told all the time that if Zyuganov comes in, he will confiscate everything. To tell the truth, 80 percent of citizens no longer have anything to confiscate. They have lost everything, including their burial savings which they kept for a rainy day or to pay for their burial, and not to mention the large sums for a dacha, a house, a car, and so on.

As far as confiscations are concerned, I understand very well that if anyone were to begin confiscating things and dividing them up again tomorrow, then the day after tomorrow the whole country would blaze up like Chechnya. We have a quite different task. Our main quarrel with Mr. Yeltsin is that our bloc and I are in favor of a Russia with its own specific features which is strong, respected, and worthy, a Russia that all on our planet will take into account. But he wants it to be a beggar sitting in the G-7's waiting room and for it to lose its national and state dignity.

By the way, in the five years of his rule, Russia has shrunk in half, the average age has decreased by almost five years, the country has about a million abandoned children. In effect, a new gulag is raging. Just think: every year, almost 1 million people are sentenced. The country has turned into a criminal zone to the accompaniment of talk that we intend to build new gulags.

Today, they compare us with him. Today, they say Zyuganov was a bureaucrat somewhere. When I was in school, Mr. Yeltsin was running a regional party committee. And his region, by the way, had the same ration cards which he today promises will be introduced if we come to power.

Our chief priorities are industry, national industry, and national capital. Our chief task is to get production going and to increase the purchasing power of all citizens, first of all displaying concern for children, women, and the old, and everyone who can work with talent and honesty. Our basic priorities are science, education, culture, without which no country can have a future.

Here is where our differences lie. One side tries to intimidate while the other proposes specific ways for extricating ourselves peacefully from this situation. I put forward the initiative for a government of national accord in which one-third would be put forward from our bloc, one-third from the existing government, and one-third from those parties and movements which in the State Duma received support in December, that is, relying on your choice, esteemed voters.

When you go to vote, speaking in general, you will be choosing not only and not so much Zyuganov or Yeltsin. You will be choosing either a strong and powerful Russia or a colonial administration. I believe in your good sense, I believe in Russia, I believe in its future, and I believe in its merits. I wish you success in the elections. Thank you. Goodbye.

Russia: Zyuganov Assails Media 'Terror Campaign'

LD2806165296 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1210 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Report by Vera Shchelkunova from the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gennadiy Zyuganov has made another appeal on the National Patriotic bloc's behalf. This time it is connected with the incorrect policy which, in the Communist Party leader's view, is being pursued by the mass media, including us:

[Begin Zyuganov recording] Today only a blind or a deaf person would be unaware of what an orgy is going on on television and radio and in the press. All the forces of court flatterers have been flung into glorifying Mr. Yeltsin and intimidating millions of people with the threat of a so-called return to the past. History has not witnessed such hypocrisy and violation of common sense: banditry is raging in the country, blood is being shed, children are starving, and beggars and refugees are thronging the streets, but the flatterers are continuing to sing the praises of the wisdom of a ruler no longer able to conduct a live dialogue on TV. For a long time now things are being run on his behalf by people like Satarov and Livshits who are not all accountable to the electorate. But it is not merely a hysterical campaign that is under way; a very real terror campaign by the media is unfolding and it has already escalated into physical terror. It is expressed in the persecution of everything Russian and all things involving the people and the state, in the manufacture of forged documents, and the preparation of provocations which not infrequently end in violence.

Who is in charge of this brazen effort to produce zombies and occupy the air waves and newspaper columns? They are the selfsame people who only yesterday, transported with delight, were singing the praises of the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and suppressing any dissidence. The vilest of wars, a war aimed at annihilating the conscience, honor, willpower, and memory, has now been unleashed in Russia. It is a war whose skillful waging would be

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the envy of Goebbels, its originator. Then it was waged against other peoples, funded by the money of the Reich, whereas here, esteemed compatriots, at our own expense mud is being flung at our heads and our children are being corrupted. [end recording]

Yet more Bolshevik terms. Gennadiy Zyuganov's harshness, his harshness in his assessments can be explained perfectly well: very little time is left until the next round and it is necessary to finalize everything. This is also being done in the current president's team. This is shown by the latest reshuffles at the top of Russian politics. It is no secret that the representatives of the two opposing movements do not have a very good relationship, to put it mildly, with their rivals. [passage omitted]

Russia: Lebed Urges 'No U-Turns' in Reform; Coalition 'Fated'

LD3006183996 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Today Aleksandr Lebed, the president's aide and the secretary of the Russian Security Council, has made an appeal to voters.

[Begin Lebed recording] I, Aleksandr Lebed, the secretary of the Security Council of the state of Russia, wish to appeal to my voters, to the 11 million people who believed me. I am calling for your support. I am an officer who is aware of what honor is. I have not got the ability to deceive people, and I have no intention of deceiving you. I have never betrayed anyone. I have a clear vision of our final goal — a rich, strong, beautiful, and powerful Russia. I know that we must work for it now if we want to achieve this goal. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] Lebed has stressed that three generations have tried to build a bright future. But they have failed. Today, as we have embarked upon the path of reform we must not go back.

[Begin Lebed recording] We must make no u-turns. We must have the bit in our teeth and go forward in the face of all the difficulties and hardships. I am calling on everyone to come and express his will in the elections. Our land is our country. We have the same sky over our heads, the same land under our feet, we have the same common Russian language. We must decide our destiny. We must choose our trajectory. We must choose our future. [end recording]

[Announcer] It is interesting that Aleksandr Ivanovich does not reject the idea of a coalition government. He has stated this today, too.

[Begin Lebed recording] I personally think that we are fated to have a coalition government. I have already said that. We must give everyone a job and give everyone an opportunity to use the whole power of his party and movement in order to create good living. We will come to that. There will be work for everyone in the country today and now. If the communists wish to create good living standards for the working people, they are welcome to take over the Ministry of Labor, the Ministry of Social Security, and the Ministry of Justice. Let us think how we will live. Enough fighting. We have exhausted our limits. We will live. [end recording]

Russia: Zhirinovskiy To Urge Voters To Back Yeltsin

LD2806121896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1215 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Itar-Tass) — Leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy intends to appeal to his four-million-strong electorate which had supported him in the first round of Russia's presidential elections, not to vote for communist Gennadiy Zyuganov at the July 3 runoff.

"We hope that our voters will understand us correctly and that their votes will not be given for the presidential candidate from the leftist forces," Zhirinovskiy told a press conference at State Duma lower house of parliament on Thursday.

Russia: Yeltsin Electoral Victory Reported in Kazakhstan

LD0107063796 Moscow Interfax in English 0615 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, July 1 (Interfax) — More than 70 percent of the Russian electorate in Kazakhstan's capital voted for President Boris Yeltsin's re-election in the second round of Russian presidential ballot.

According to the Russian Embassy in Kazakhstan, of the more than 650 people who took part in the runoff, nearly 470 backed Yeltsin, up to 160 people voted for Zyuganov, 27 were opposed to both, and three ballots were declared invalid.

The second round of Russian presidential elections was held in Almaty ahead of time because July 3 will be a working day in Kazakhstan. However, at the other polling stations, set up in the Kazakh cities of Aktau, Aktyubinsk, Karaganda, and Kustanay, the runoff will be held on July 3.

A Russian Embassy spokesman has noted a much lower turnout than on June 16 when close to 1420 voters came to the polls in Almaty.

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In the first round of Russian presidential elections in Kazakhstan, 43.2 percent favored Yeltsin, 21 percent Aleksandr Lebed, and Gennadiy Zyuganov was the third finisher with 18.8 percent.

Russia: Electoral Commission 'Furious' Over Release of Results

LD0107092596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian citizens in a number of former Soviet states voted yesterday in the second round of the presidential elections. In Estonia, over 20,000 people turned out to vote. In Latvia, there were 7,800 and 654 people cast their ballots in Almaty. INTERFAX news agency, quoting the Central Electoral Commission in Almaty, reported the outcome of voting there. Apparently, 71 percent favored Boris Yeltsin and 24 percent favored Gennadiy Zyuganov.

The Central Electoral Commission is furious about this report, our radio station was told by commission member Rif Biktagirov:

[Begin Biktagirov recording] It is totally absurd, a gross perversion of all legislation and all accepted practice. Nobody has the right to know or divulge that information. We also heard the reports as we were driving to work. The electoral commission members have exchanged opinions on this disgraceful episode. Total irresponsibility. In any event, journalists are supposed to be competent people and know when they cannot publish. If you get that kind of information, before publishing you should at least figure out where it came from: from opening up the ballot boxes, or what? That is how a journalist should conduct himself, instead of blindly passing on whatever comes his way. [end recording]

Russia: Distribution of Regional Votes Analyzed

964F2640A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jun 96 p 3

[Article by Konstantin Katanyan, under the "Analysis" rubric: "Russia's Fate Is Determined by 11 Federation Components: According to Analysts' Forecast, in the First Round Yeltsin Will Only Top Zyuganov by 1-2 Percent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Only five RF components brought about Boris Yeltsin's relative victory in the first round of the presidential elections. In Moscow, Pskov, and Sverdlovsk Oblasts, as well as in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Yeltsin received between 200,000 and 750,000 votes more than Gennadiy Zyuganov, which in total gave the incumbent president of Russia an advantage of 2.75 million votes. In six regions, on the other hand, Zyuganov was ahead of Yeltsin by more than 200,000 votes. However, winning in Altay, Krasnodar, and Stavropol Krays, as well as in Voronezh, Kemerovo, and Penza Oblasts, gave the Communists only 1.5 million votes to offset the president's gains.

Thus, for all practical purposes the fate of the elections was decided by the residents of 11 large regions, where Yeltsin received a net advantage of slightly more than 1 million votes, which created a gap of about 2 percent between the two main contenders for the office of president. The results of the vote in the remaining RF components essentially canceled each other out.

Of course, Yeltsin's victory could have been more convincing had he been able to once again win the support of the regions that supported him in the 25 April 1993 referendum. Of the six RF components that have now shifted to Zyuganov's side, only Voronezh and Penza Oblasts were dissatisfied with the president's performance three years ago. Another surprise was Yeltsin's defeat in the regions that in December of last year refused the vote of confidence to the Communists and instead chose to vote for the Russia Is Our Home bloc—for instance, Tatarstan.

If we compare, however, the current results with the presidential elections in Russia in 1991, it turns out that Yeltsin's support has grown in relatively sparsely populated regions. His success in Kalmykia, Tuva, the Republic of Altay, and a number of autonomous okrugs has little impact on the total sum of the vote. In the so-called "red belt," on the other hand, Yeltsin lost between 20 and 30 percent of the vote compared to 1991; less significant but nevertheless perceptible losses were also registered in Siberia and the Far East.

In short, Yeltsin must shore up all his strength today in order to win the runoff election. He cannot recover the votes that have gone to the Communists, but it is still possible to win back part of the electorate that supported outsider candidates. In particular, those reformist-minded regions where a perceptible part of the electorate supported Aleksandr Lebed.

The retired general managed to win more than 30 percent of the vote in Ivanovo Oblast, which is distinguished by a predominantly female population; he won more than 20 percent in Vladimir, Vologda, Kostroma, Magadan, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov, Sakhalin, and Chelyabinsk Oblasts, which are more likely to elect a charismatic figure than a party leader. And in this sense, Yeltsin's chances here are sufficiently high—provided the time left until the runoff is not wasted by the president and his team.

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By the way, CEC [Central Electoral Commission] Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Ivanchenko mentioned 30 June or 7 July as the most likely dates for the runoff balloting. The former, though, will remain a viable choice only if the CEC manages to fulfill its intention to finish the official vote-counting this Wednesday. Otherwise, a different option is possible—for instance, holding elections on the weekday of 3 July, which will be designated as a holiday for the sake of such a triumph of democracy.

Going back to the distribution of votes in the regions, it is worth looking at the dynamics of the first-round results throughout the long night of Sunday to Monday.

Data that had arrived by 2300 from Sakhalin and Chukotka put Yeltsin the lead, which he retained all the way until noon on 17 June, and by this time only 15 percent of the ballots remained uncounted—that is, the election results were practically clear.

The Far East data that arrived by midnight perceptibly reduced the gap, but by 0100 the first results from the Urals brought it to almost 3 percent. After 0200 the gap started gradually shrinking again as information started coming from the so-called "red belt" regions.

The 0600 to 0900 break in releasing data enabled Muscovites' ballots to be counted, which again gave Yeltsin a 2.7 percent advantage. However, after noon, when his lead had reached 2.8 percent, information started to arrive from rural districts, traditionally known for their conservatism, which should again bring the two leaders' curves closer to each other.

Analysts predict that in the end, Yeltsin's advantage over Zyuganov will shrink somewhat and will amount to only 1-2 percent.

Preliminary Results of the Balloting in the First Round of the RF Presidential Elections

No.—Region—Voters—% for B. Yeltsin—% for G. Zyuganov

1.—Adygea—335,385—20.0—53.8
2.—Altay—128,215—33.0—33.0
3.—Bashkortostan—2,821,239—35.0—41.0
4.—Buryatia—677,197—29.0—49.3
5.—Dagestan—1,152,402—25.1—67.0
6.—Ingushetia—113,009—36.0—30.0
7.—Kabardino-Balkaria—586,221—45.0—38.0
8.—Kalmykia—198,658—63.0—23.0
9.—Karachay-Cherkessia—287,983—23.0—68.0
10.—Karelia—572,417—43.0—17.0
11.—Komi—796,121—41.0—17.0
12.—Mari El—552,931—23.0—47.6
13.—Mordovia—686,382—25.0—61.0
14.—Moscow—7,014,492—61.8—15.0
15.—St. Petersburg—3,719,449—49.7—15.1
16.—Sakha (Yakutia)—591,344—53.4—20.7
17.—North Ossetia—418,477—17.8—66.4
18.—Tatarstan—2,653,777—29.6—51.1
19.—Tuva—165,553—51.8—30.8
20.—Udmurtia—1,140,502—37.3—31.0
21.—Khakassia—385,274—34.4—32.6
22.—Chechnya—490,823— - — -
23.—Chuvashia—946,710—22.0—53.6
24.—Altay Kray—1,947,413—28.7—39.8
25.—Krasnodar Kray—3,786,215—15.3—55.8
26.—Krasnoyarsk Kray—2,111,092—33.9—30.0
27.—Maritime Kray—1,544,475—29.9—24.9
28.—Stavropol Kray—1,845,678—21.9—45.1
29.—Khabarovsk Kray—1,091,280—39.2—23.1
30.—Amur Oblast—686.145—27.7—41.4
31.—Arkhangelsk Oblast—1,052,045—41.7—17.9
32.—Astrakhan Oblast—734,573—31.1—34.8
33.—Belgorod Oblast—1,084,042—24.8—43.9
34.—Bryansk Oblast—1,105,520—28.9—50.0
35.—Vladimir Oblast—1,224,600—31.6—30.2
36.—Volgograd Oblast—1,975,848—27.7—42.3
37.—Vologda Oblast—974,353—43.9—18.2
38.—Voronezh Oblast—1,958,287—22.3—46.1
39.—Ivanovo Oblast—950,338—30.4—22.8
40.—Irkutsk Oblast—1,784,212—33.3—28.0
41.—Kaliningrad Oblast—712,061—33.4—23.0
42.—Kaluga Oblast—817,598—32.0—36.3
43.—Kamchatka Oblast—272,332—34.7—19.1
44.—Kemerovo Oblast—2,155,417—23.3—39.7
45.—Kirov Oblast—1,190,042—32.7—27.5
46.—Kostroma Oblast—591,420—28.5—28.9
47.—Kurgan Oblast—778,779—29.6—38.1
48.—Kursk Oblast—1,005,439—25.6—50.4
49.—Leningrad Oblast—1,345,152—37.8—23.6
50.—Lipetsk Oblast—931,343—26.0—46.0
51.—Magadan Oblast—165,864—37.6—16.2
52.—Moscow Oblast—5,500,796—44.8—24.7
53.—Murmansk Oblast—795,413—41.4—12.1
54.—Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast—2,846,442—38.6—31.3
55.—Novgorod Oblast—560,628—35.8—23.5
56.—Novosibirsk Oblast—2,025,157—26.2—35.0
57.—Omsk Oblast—1,508,222—33.2—38.0
58.—Orenburg Oblast—1,564,764—26.4—42.9
59.—Orel Oblast—685,096—22.9—54.2
60.—Penza Oblast—1,161,684—21.5—60.6
61.—Perm Oblast—2,003,934—57.5—16.0
62.—Pskov Oblast—639,253—25.3—29.9
63.—Rostov Oblast—3,260,542—29.7—34.0
64.—Ryazan Oblast—1,016,028—25.0—40.6
65.—Samara Oblast—2,431,467—36.1—36.1
66.—Saratov Oblast—2,026,231—29.0—42.1

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67.—Sakhalin Oblast—455,758—30.1—27.6
68.—Sverdlovsk Oblast—3,409,135—59.9—11.9
69.—Smolensk Oblast—881,055—22.2—45.0
70.—Tambov Oblast—966,200—21.5—52.7
71.—Tver Oblast—1,237,335—33.1—32.7
72.—Tomsk Oblast—798,194—35.1—23.0
73.—Tula Oblast—1,441,085—30.2—30.6
74.—Tyumen Oblast—898,742—39.5—27.9
75.—Ulyanovsk Oblast—1,081,198—24.5—45.3
76.—Chelyabinsk Oblast—2,641,467—38.8—25.5
77.—Chita Oblast—805,024—27.0—37.4
78.—Yaroslavl Oblast—110,124—33.6—18.2
79.—Aginsk-Buryat AO [autonomous okrug]—43,960—45.7—36.5
80.—Yevreyskaya Autonomous Oblast—139,836—30.8—33.1
81.—Komi-Permyak AO—101,536— - — -
82.—Koryak AO—21,023—44.0—16.8
83.—Nenets AO—28,442—43.4—18.7
84.—Taymyr (Dolgan-Nenets) AO—29,338—49.9—11.5
85.—Ust-Orda Buryat AO—82,556—37.9—40.6
86.—Khanty-Mansi AO—814,501—63.9—12.8
87.—Chukotka AO—60,364—48.4—14.0
88.—Evenk AO—12,970— - — -
89.—Yamal-Nenets AO—304,431—66.1—9.2
- —TOTAL—107,496,558— - — -

Russia: Misprint Blamed for Faulty Ballot Papers in Maritime Kray

LD3006092096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0840 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, June 30 (Interfax) — The appearance of three faulty ballot papers for the second round of Russian presidential elections in the Maritime territory discovered by the local electoral commission on June 27-28 is not a provocation, Yevgeniy Khrustalev, deputy chairman of the Maritime territory's electoral commission, told Interfax-Eurasia on Sunday.

The Russian media reported on June 29 that three ballot papers with marks indicating support for Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov and a vote against all candidates on the ballot were discovered in the Maritime territory.

The marks on the three ballot papers seem to be a technical fault, Khrustalev said. On two out of the three faulty ballot papers there were dots in front of Zyuganov's name. The third faulty ballot paper had dots in front of the "against all candidates on the ballot" option.

Under the vote regulations, any mark put in front of the name of a presidential candidate on the ballot paper means voting for this presidential candidate.

The dots on the three ballot papers seem to be a printing error, Khrustalev said.

Nevertheless, the three ballot papers will undergo a special examination on July 1, he said.

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 Jun

LD2906054496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0507 GMT 29 Jun 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 29 (Itar-Tass) — Today, the same as in the past few days, newspapers highlight the forthcoming second round of the presidential elections. The press reports that Yeltsin refused to take part in a TV debate with Zyuganov and calls attention to the fact that Yeltsin was absent from the conference of agricultural workers. He was replaced there by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who postponed for several hours his departure for Lyons to the G7 summit. In this connection several newspapers publish a statement of Press Secretary of the President Sergey Medvedev to Itar-Tass, who stressed that the President "is in a good shape." On Friday he worked with documents and met his electoral campaigners. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that rumours about the President's health triggered nervousness at the stock exchange, and quotations went down.

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI frontpages an electoral slogan of the popular singer Leonid Lagutin, which says "Yeltsin Is Our President. We Shall Win Together." ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA sets forth Yeltsin's address to participants in the all-Russian conference of agricultural workers and the address of the executive committee of the Our Home Is Russia movement to Russian citizens. IZVESTIYA carries an article under the traditional electoral slogan "If You Do Not Vote, You Will Lose," in which it strongly criticises students of Moscow University, who announced their intention not to take part in the voting.

In their turn, PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA write in detail about Zyuganov's meeting with Patriarch Aleksey II and about his appeal to the patriotically-minded Orthodox Christians. PRAVDA describes it as "a step, taken by communists towards the church." KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article about the meeting of the candidate from the popular-patriotic forces with clergymen under the ironic headline "Will Atheist Lenin Forgive Communist Zyuganov?" The newspaper writes as well about expenditures on the electoral campaign of the presidential hopefuls. According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, expenditures on Yeltsin's campaign amount to 14 billion roubles, and those on Zyuganov's campaign — to seven billion roubles.

All the newspapers — those which support Yeltsin and those which campaign for his rival — urge people to go to the polls. Against the background of articles, reflecting confrontation on the eve of the runoff elections, an article by Boris Slavin, published in PRAVDA, looks different. He belives that "the idea of pluralism and harmony in society is getting more and more popular." In the opinion of Slavin, "this idea is the most appropriate today, with the threat of an economic and financial collapse looming large over the country."

The press continues to show interest in the actions of Aleksandr Lebed, new assistant to the President on national security problems. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes with some abridgements his interview with the German magazine DER SPIEGEL. IZVESTIYA writes about the rumours circulating at the Defence Ministry, that allegedly 71 generals are about to be retired from the Armed Forces. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries a large article by Lebed about the focal points of his policy in the sphere of economic security. He believes it is necessary to step up the presence of the state in the national economy. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA believes that "the Secretary of the Security Council is making a point of dissociating himself from radical democrats."

Following Chernomyrdin's arrival in Lyons, newspapers carry materials about the meeting of leaders of G-7 countries in that French city. Much attention is being devoted to the adoption of a new Constitution in Ukraine.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Jul

LD0107054696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0507 GMT 1 Jul 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

MOSCOW, July 1 (Itar-Tass) — Follows a review of Monday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated July 1.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI opens up with the following headline: "If you do not go to the polls, you would economise on minutes but would lose years, lose your country. Come over and vote for Boris Yeltsin, for a new policy course and a new team".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, on its second page under the headline "A new policy course with a new team", runs a column of remarks by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, St. Petersburg Governor Vladimir Yakovlev, and Bryansk and Amur region administrations' chiefs Aleksandr Semyonov and Yuriy Lyashko, respectively.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with prominent Russian writer Viktor Astafyev, who states "I voted for Yeltsin before and will vote for him this time as well. At present, there is no worthy successor to him".

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ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, and TRUD run President Boris Yeltsin's interview with the Interfax news agency.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a column of dispatches dealing with the forthcoming presidential election runoff from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Orel, Volgograd, Orenburg, and Rostov regions, Chechnya, Primorye (Maritime territory), and Chukotka peninsula.

Referring to the opinion of sociologists, the newspaper writes that approximately one-third of the electorate in Orel region will vote for Boris Yeltsin.

"A large number of people, who voted for Aleksandr Lebed in the first round of presidential elections, will give preference, it seems, to Gennadiy Zyuganov, and not only because Zyuganov is a native of Orel region, although this fact cannot be written off.

"In the opinion of many Orel residents, who voted for Lebed, the General, upon becoming the Security Council Secretary and Presidential national security adviser, has turned into an official, although a high-placed one but deprived of the possibility to make independent decisions," the newspaper points out.

PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA run Gennadiy Zyuganov's Address to the Citizens of the Russian Federation.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on rumours about Aleksandr Korzhakov's new appointment.

"Rumours that Aleksandr Korzhakov will be appointed a Deputy Chief of the Presidential administration are not unfounded. The appointment will be made after July 3, according to Kremlin sources."

CIS: Yeltsin To Meet With Moldovan, Ukrainian Presidents

LD3006205996 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A trilateral meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, and Ukrainian Leonid Kuchma is scheduled for 1 July in Moscow.

At the meeting, a memorandum devoted to the problems of the Dniestr Region is to be signed. It is possible also that there will be bilateral meetings between Kuchma and the presidents of Russia and Moldova.

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Russia: G-7 May Be 'Less Inhibited' in Yeltsin's Absence

MM2806120496 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Vadim Markushin: "Forum of Leaders Without Yeltsin Factor. Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Seven Leading Industrial Powers Opens in Lyon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian delegation is joining in the work of the summit 28 June, a day after its opening. It is headed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. According to general opinion, this significant amendment in the level of Russian participation in the summit will have an effect on its results. In the sense that in the absence of Boris Yeltsin, who has a certain inexplicable influence on the way the discussions proceed, the G-7 members will be less inhibited in trying to act in their own interests. Correspondingly, Russia's dividends from the results of the discussion of the most important problems may turn out to be lower than expected. Presumably the head of the Russian delegation will find out about the content of the discussion of the first day of the meeting from the chairman — French President Jacques Chirac. This information is very important, because one of the main questions on the set agenda is the situation in Russia in connection with the election. Problems connected with NATO expansion, the Near East settlement, and the fight against organized crime and international terrorism will be discussed 28 June with the participation of Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The NATO subject traditionally attracts the Russian representatives' most focused attention. Their activeness in discussing all aspects and prospects connected with the functioning of the North Atlantic bloc increases as real steps in its eastward expansion come closer. The situation is such that you can fully expect the G-7 countries to support the three Baltic states (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia), which are aiming to join NATO as quickly as possible. Particularly since, in their conversations with the Baltic leaders, both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, his competitor in the contest for the White House, have promised them their patronage. At the same time, world leaders will obviously display a certain caution as regards the adoption of fundamental decisions. Because they are currently awaiting the results of the election campaign in Russia, which will of course have an effect on their subsequent view of prospects in the East.

The recent tragedy in Saudi Arabia will also undoubtedly have an effect on the work of the Lyon forum. The question of combating terrorism will be one of the most topical questions. President Clinton has already stated this on leaving for France. From what he said, "beating the organized forces of destruction is one of the most important tasks facing the United States at the end of this century." "I will say to my partners at the meeting: We cannot achieve global economic security unless we hold out against the forces of terror." Moscow's interest in this plan is obvious, because integration in the sphere of countering terrorism is in line with the most urgent Russian plans. The same goes for interaction in combating organized crime.

The financial problems being examined in Lyon are also in the sphere of the Russian delegation's special attention. In particular, those connected with the debt of "third countries." The question of Russia's acceptance as a member of the Paris Club as a creditor is being resolved. If it "goes through" at the meeting, Moscow will have a greater chance of retrieving at least some of the debts which have been hanging over a number of third world countries since Soviet times. The restructuring of Russia's foreign debt is also on the list of our delegation's top-priority tasks. Putting off the payment of debts on loans within the framework of the Paris Club is an urgent necessity for Chernomrydin's government. Will our Western partners agree to this? Possibly. After all, Moscow has demonstrated "financial stabilization" to them. Although by a method that is obvious to everyone.

Russia: Political Declaration Circulated at G-7 Summit

LD2906123996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1222 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON, June 29 (Interfax) — A political declaration of the Lyon summit was circulated Saturday as an official document at the end of a working session of the leaders of G-7 countries and Russia.

The 20 page document calling for greater security and stability in an interconnected world says the summit discussed the possibilities and challenges facing the world on the threshold of the 21st century.

The G-7 countries and Russia share the opinion that today there is a chance to use the historical moment for winning greater security and stability throughout the world.

The document calls for cooperation with all countries capable of contributing to a safer world through strengthening the UN and to greater progress in the non-proliferation of arms and disarmament control. The leaders of the eight countries are determined to promote new comprehensive disarmament treaties. The document stresses the great importance of the decisions made at the Moscow nuclear summit last April.

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The leaders of eight countries agreed to promote the strengthening and reformation of the United Nations, in particular through evening out the fees paid to it.

An important chapter of the statement deals with human rights, democratic processes and humanitarian problems.

The Lyon summit supported the efforts of international tribunals seeking and punishing persons found guilty of grave violations of human rights in ex-Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland.

A big section deals with environmental protection, a better informed society, scientific development programs, efforts to combat drug trade and international organized crime.

The chapter on the situation in the regions welcomes elections to the Palestinian council and of its chief executive. It insists that Palestinian leaders and their head Yasir 'Arafat would do everything for the introduction of democratic institutions, law and order, respect for human rights.

The leaders of the eight countries also insist that North Korea continue the dialogue and ties with South Korea thanks to which lasting and reliable peace could be achieved on the Korean peninsula.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Arrives in Lyon for G-7 Summit Meeting

LD2806134596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON, June 28 (Itar-Tass) — Chairman of the Russian Government Viktor Chernomyrdin today arrived in Lyon, France to take part in the work of the meeting of the leaders of the world's leading industrialised countries, which began its working sessions earlier today in the Museum of Modern Art, part of the international complex Cite Internationale.

The meeting of the leaders of the world's wealthiest nations — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States — is chaired by French President Jacques Chirac.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is due to join the seven leaders later on Friday and take part in the second and third meetings devoted to the global and foreign political problems of the modern world.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Meets With France's Chirac in Lyon

LD2806204596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON (FRANCE), June 28 (Interfax) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held a 40-minute meeting with French President Jacques Chirac on Friday [28 June] in Lyon, France.

The meeting resulted in "full mutual understanding," an expert from the Russian delegation told Interfax. Chernomyrdin told Chirac that the situation in Russia before the second round of elections was "somewhat better than before the first one," the expert said.

Chirac was satisfied with Chernomyrdin's news that inflation in Russia is on the decline, sources in the Russian delegation said. Chirac asked Chernomyrdin to give Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his team "best wishes and hopes that the Russians will make the right choice in the second vote," they said.

Chirac informed Chernomyrdin of what happened in Lyon before the latter arrived, particularly on the draft economic declaration, most of which is devoted to Russia and its reforms.

The two leaders discussed the draft political communique, to be passed Saturday, and agreed that it was important for Russia to reflect its negative attitude to the proposed eastward expansion of NATO in this document.

Chernomyrdin also told Chirac of his telephone conversation with Yeltsin Friday morning. Yeltsin has lost his voice because of long-range flights, climatic changes and general fatigue, he said.

However, in general Yeltsin is quite well, Chernomyrdin said.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Meets IMF Chief To Discuss Cooperation

LD2906152896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1511 GMT 29 Jun 96

[By Mikhail Kalmykov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON, June 29 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met IMF managing director Michel Camdessus in Lyon on Saturday to discuss the implementation of a joint statement on economic policy in 1996 signed by the Russian government and the Central Bank, a three-year programme of cooperation between Russia and the IMF and prospects for a new issue of special drawing rights.

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In an interview with Itar-Tass, Central Bank chairman Sergey Dubinin said that the IMF chief had noted progress in the implementation of the joint programme with Russia.

However, there is a lot more to be done to continue structural reform and ensure budget revenues, primarily through tightening control over tax payments, he said.

Speaking about special drawing rights, Dubinin said both the IMF and Russia have many converging views on this issue. "We have worked very hard to persuade both developing and developed countries of the need to restore 'historical justice'," he added.

According to Camdessus, a decision on this issue may be adopted in September at the IMF annual meeting.

Dubinin pointed out that the IMF will have to find a compromise which would take into acccunt the interests of all parties. At the same time, he said that this decision may not necessarily fully satisfy Russia. But this is the only way to move ahead, he added.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Praises Results of Lyon Summit

LD2906140596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON, June 29 (Interfax) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin who represented Russia at the Lyon summit of the most industrialized countries has praised its results.

After the summit he told Interfax Saturday it was important for him as an envoy of the Russian president that Russia was recognized as a country with a market economy.

He said any restrictions of Russia business activeness by international partners are now unfair. "I told the leaders of the G7 that," the prime minister said adding that Russia does not intend to squeeze itself into the economic decisions of the group. "We will enter the sphere gradually," he said.

Chernomyrdin stressed that Russian participation in the Lyon summit was beneficial also for other CIS countries. According to him, for the first time the Commonwealth appeared in the summit documents even though "the step could have been taken even earlier."

He spoke in detail of the peace initiatives made by the summit participants. He said they expressed determination to promote a peace settlement in the Middle East, promote initiatives that could be an alternative to the NATO enlargement to the East.

On the social and economic situation in Russia before the runoff elections Chernomyrdin said: "I informed the leaders of the most industrialized countries without adding or concealing anything. The situation in Russia is far from simple. Everyone is worried about July 3, in particular whether people will come to polling stations."

The prime minister called the situation before the second round of voting crucial. "Elections matter much for Russia and we are all concerned about them, there is no euphoria, but there is a general feeling of concern and hope," he said.

He admitted life would become much more complicated after the elections for the Russian government. The main emphasis will shift to social matters, the prime minister said. In this respect the Lyon summit is also important because "we managed to strengthen contacts with the most important international financial organizations," he said.

"We are not asking for anything but I am happy to say that we meet understanding from world financial bodies," the prime minister said.

"Even with the current difficult situation Russia got more investments in the first quarter of the year than in the first quarter of 1995," Chernomyrdin said.

On the structure of the cabinet that will be reorganized after the elections he said it will consist to a considerable extent of "new persons, only professionals." He made it understood though that there would be no radical changes. "Everything will be alright," he said.

In reply to a question from the media Chernomyrdin said he talked to President Yeltsin Friday and found the condition of the head of state normal.

He praised the high standard of organization at the Lyon summit saying France did much to this end "with purely French brilliance."

He was also satisfied that in Lyon G7 changed qualitatively into G8. "No global problem can be resolved without our participation," the Russian prime minister said.

On Saturday evening he is expected to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in Lyon.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Returns From Lyon, Phones Yeltsin

LD2906193796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1917 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 29 (Itar-Tass) - Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin returned to Moscow late on Saturday from Lyon where he attended a summit meeting of the world's seven

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major industrialised countries as a stand-in for President Boris Yeltsin.

Upon his return, Chernomyrdin telephoned Yeltsin to tell him about the results of the meeting.

During his stay in Lyon, Chernomyrdin met French President Jacques Chirac, U.S. President Bill Clinton and International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus.

The prime minister conveyed to the president their regards and wishes of success in the upcoming second round of presidential election on July 3.

Chernomyrdin is expected to meet Yeltsin on Sunday to give him a full report on his trip to Lyon.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Briefs Media on Yeltsin, Election Issues

LD2906150196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 29 Jun 96

[By Mikhail Kalmykov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LYON, June 29 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said the leaders of the world's seven major industrialised countries were anxious to know the situation in Russia on the eve of the second round of presidential election scheduled for July 3.

Speaking at a press conference in Lyon on Saturday, Chernomyrdin said "the results of election will be the last factor which inhibits the flow of investment in the Russian market."

Chernomyrdin denied media reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has health problems. "The president of Russia is in excellent shape," he said.

The prime minister stressed that "there is no doubt that he will be perfectly able to fulfil his duties as the head of state for the next four years if he wins the election."

Chernomyrdin told journalists that he had talked to Yeltsin by telephone before flying to Lyon to receive his last-minute instructions.

Asked about Bosnia, Chernomyrdin said "we agree that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic should leave the political scene. And he has already done that."

Speaking about the Middle East, the Russian prime minister said the summit revealed "a complete unity" among its participants with regard to the Middle East peace process.

On fighting international terrorism, which became one of the main topics of discussions in Lyon, Chernomyrdin urged all countries to join forces in eradicating this evil.

Russia: Effect of Yeltsin Victory/Defeat on U.S. Politics Assessed

MK2906075496 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 25, 27 Jun-3 Jul 96 (signed to press 26 Jun) p 5

[Report by Igor Kazakov: "Bill Clinton Is Preparing a Lateral Troop Movement. The U.S. President Is Bold Enough To Put All His Eggs in One Basket"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that Boris Yeltsin does not have so many friends after all. At least among the leaders of the leading world powers. Only Bill Clinton and Helmut Kohl use the word "friend" with respect to the occupant of the [Russian] White House when meeting with him. Yet, as is known, a friend in need is a friend in deed, and the situation in which Boris Yeltsin has now found himself cannot be described other than a state of need. It is all the more interesting how his defeat or victory in the second round will affect his interrelations with "friend Bill" or "friend Helmut."

Boris Yeltsin's possible defeat in the second round of the presidential elections will hardly make Bill Clinton happy. But although critics reproach the U.S. president for betting, in his relations with Russia, all his money on only one figure, the loss of "friend Boris" would hardly be able to substantially undermine Clinton's reelection chances this coming November, said Viktor Kremenyuk, a leading Russian U.S. watcher and deputy director of the U.S. and Canada Institute, in an interview with OBSHCHAYA GAZETA.

According to Kremenyuk the Americans have this tradition: When developments in a large country that is of great importance to the United States — be it China in 1949 or Iran in 1979 — begin to take a turn unpleasant to the United States, a search for the guilty party immediately begins. It was not accidental that the United States was for a long time tormented by the question: "Who lost China?" Should a major power change occur in Moscow, Clinton will have to defend himself for a long time, because he will be attacked from the right and the left, with accusations that he is the one who "lost Russia." Yet this primarily refers to Clinton as politician.

As to Clinton the U.S. president, Viktor Kremenyuk believes it is quite possible that he will establish quite normal working relations with the Communist leader of Russia. These relations will be built on the need to maintain some form of cooperation in the strategic sphere, for instance, taking into account the desire of both powers to control the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and to use the UN as an instrument of regulating the world. There might not be any more

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intimate relations or major loans or investments; a greater thrust might be placed on NATO expansion and reinforcement. Yet we can hardly expect the "Cold War" to resume.

The Americans have always been sympathetic toward Russia, but not toward its Communist regime. And the attempts by the Russians to create a democratic society are received with understanding. On the other hand, the average American does not like — or want — to focus on external problems for too long. And as reform in Russia dragged on, the U.S. voter gradually lost interest in its evolution, which, in turn, enabled the establishment to conduct a more unrestrained discussion on the issue of relations with Moscow. And if, under the pressure of public opinion, both George Bush and Bill Clinton at the start of his presidential tenure had to formulate a more or less coherent U.S. policy with respect to Russia, now the absence of such interest frees Clinton from this necessity. According to Kremenyuk, it is not ruled out that in the event of Clinton's victory the problem of relations with Russia will take a back seat — naturally to the extent to which this will be possible. And Moscow's place will be taken up by Beijing.

Russia: Dole Comments on Russian Treaty Violation Viewed

MM0107103896 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Sergey Ivanov: "Dole Has Told Russia: 'Just Wait!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whereas in May the unflattering comments of U.S. presidential candidate retired senator Bob Dole were aimed mainly at Beijing, in late June he has turned Americans' attention toward the Russian corner.

Very serious charges have been leveled against Moscow. "Some forces in Russia have launched a campaign of economic blackmail against the independent states of the former USSR," Dole asserts, without burdening himself with arguments. Once again Moscow is standing in NATO's way, preventing Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic from falling into the embraces of the North Atlantic bloc. At the same time Russia is contriving to violate international treaties on nuclear disarmament, chemical weapons, and conventional arms in Europe. Where in that case are the guarantees against the inadvertent launch of a Russian missile?

It follows from this that the United States needs an effective antinuclear defense system. But "the romantically inclined Clinton administration does not want to notice this....."

These expatiations do not cost the candidate much. If he has to fulfill his promises a moment of enlightenment will immediately ensue after the drunken electioneering excesses.

Russia: Reasons for Failure To Achieve CTBT 'Breakthrough' Listed

MM0107101996 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jul 96 p 5

[Report by correspondent Leonid Timofeyev: "We'll Go on With the Blasts for Now"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva — There was no breakthrough at the disarmament conference held in Geneva. The text of the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty (CTBT) was not agreed.

A compromise with China, which wanted to win the opportunity to go on exploding nuclear charges for peaceful purposes, seemed to be close, but then a voice was heard from Delhi. India demanded that the text of the document include a promise to begin new talks on the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Nor was Pakistan willing to sign the treaty.

At the same time a number of countries, Russia included, believe that the CTBT can only come into force if it is ratified by the five nuclear powers plus the three so-called "threshold" countries — India, Pakistan, and Israel — where nuclear weapons could appear any day now. The Americans and the French are prepared to confine themselves to the ratification of the document only by the "magnificent five."

The question of methods of monitoring compliance with the treaty remains unresolved. Some countries believe that to use exclusively national means [of verification] means to legitimize espionage. On the other hand, there is no common opinion on whether foreign inspectors should give advance warning of their visits or descend like thunder out of a clear sky.

Russia: Yeltsin, Kuchma, Snegur Talks on Dniester Cancelled

LD0107073196 Moscow Interfax in English 0722 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 1 (Interfax) — Peace talks between Russia, Ukraine and Moldova originally scheduled for Monday to sign a memorandum on the Moldovan breakaway region of Transdniester have been postponed, an informed source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

The source explained that the meeting had been postponed by mutual agreement between presidents Boris

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Yeltsin of Russia, Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Mircea Snegur of Moldova.

The agreement was reached via diplomatic channels on Sunday.

Russia: Council of Europe's Muellemann To Meet With Lebed

MK2806135096 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Leonid Velekhov: "The Council of Europe Proposes That Negotiations on Chechnya Be Held in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe's Committee Chairman Will Meet With General Lebed Within the Next Few Days"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday evening, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [PACE] in Strasbourg discussed a report of the Council of Europe's special Interim Committee on Chechnya, headed by Ernst Muellemann, on the situation in this North Caucasus republic. The report was based on the trips of Mr. Muellemann and committee members to Groznyy, Urus-Martan, Nazran, and Moscow in late May-early June of this year. The speaker found that "there emerged prospects of stability" in Chechnya after the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev, but he characterized the mentality of Chechen leaders as fluctuating "between the continuation of the fight for complete independence and the laying down of their arms being content with the partial independence," proposed by Moscow. Mr. Muellemann especially emphasized the role of the OSCE Mission in the promotion of a peace negotiating process and urged the Council of Europe to help the OSCE in the constant monitoring of the Chechen situation.

Mr. Muellemann proposed that all the sides in the conflict hold negotiations in Strasbourg under the auspices of the Council of Europe. At the same time, he insists that all cases of violations of human rights and the humanitarian rule in general in Chechnya be made public and investigated.

Vladimir Lukin, head of the Russian delegation to the PACE, approved of the idea to hold negotiations in Strasbourg, but, he believes, they need to be completely closed for the press. Mr. Lukin motivated this demand by the fear that because of journalists, the negotiations can turn into a political show.

It was evident from Mr. Lukin's words that Mr. Muellemann is going to meet with General Lebed in Moscow next week. Mr. Lukin doubted that Mr. Lebed would insist on his "special" ideas regarding the Chechen settlement, which he voiced during the election campaign. In Mr. Lukin's opinion, having started to work in the president's administration, Mr. Lebed brought his stance closer to the official one.

Russia: Moscow Believes Bosnian Serb Leader Should Leave Politics

LD2806152196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1505 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Interfax) — Moscow believes that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and other people suspected of criminal offenses in Bosnia-Herzegovina should leave politics, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a briefing in Moscow Friday.

A recent international conference in Florence made a similar appeal to "specific persons," he recalled.

Russia took note of how these people reacted to the appeal, Demurin said. "At the same time, we proceed from the assumption that it is up to the court to find guilty these or other persons charged by the tribunal," he underlined.

Russia: Bosnian Serbs Seek Continued Friendly Ties With Moscow

LD2806222696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Interfax) — Moscow's stance favoring withdrawal of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic from the political scene will not affect the Serb Republic's determination to have friendly mutually-beneficial relations with Russia, director of the humanitarian cultural and information center of the Serb Republic, the diplomatic mission, Todor Dutina told Interfax Friday.

"The Serb Republic remains the only lasting ally of Russia in the Balkans despite all the misunderstandings, past and future events," he said.

"It is very difficult with Russia, but it is impossible without it," said Dutina. "We hope Russia will take an active part in restorations of both the Serb Republic and all of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Bosnian Serb leaders have asked Russia for help and cooperation, including in construction, power engineering and joint ventures.

"Many plants on territory of the Serb Republic were adjusted to Russian standards. We must resume their work and return to the situation we had before the war in Bosnia began in 1992," he said.

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Dutina thinks that Russian support for Karadzic's withdrawal from the political scene may be explained by its limited opportunities.

"Russian diplomacy, certainly, understands the injustice and farfetchedness of the fuss around President of the Serb Republic Karadzic. But Moscow is simply unable to do anything about it," said the Bosnian Serb politician.

"Why does not the international community, which accused Radovan Karadzic of war crimes, show orders on execution of Muslims or Croats, which carry his signature, to the public?" said Dutina.

"Everyone agrees Karadzic himself did not kill. Being the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, he must have had to sign orders. In that case at least one order should be shown. If there are any, I would be the first to call for punishment of President Karadzic," he added.

Commenting on a congress of the Bosnian Serb Democratic Party to open Friday, expected to nominate Karadzic as a presidential candidate and hear his immediate refusal to accept the nomination, Dutina said "I would not say anything extraordinary will happen Friday, but anyway we will balance our interests and the requirements of the international community."

Several days ago Belgrade produced "a new ultimatum to the Serb Republic and threatened countermeasures if the republic does not dismiss Karadzic."

"We are not isolated from the outside world, and have to reckon with circumstances," said Dutina.

Asked whether Karadzic may leave the political scene, he said "everything is possible."

Commenting on elections of republican and federal power institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina scheduled for September 14, Dutina said "these elections solve nothing, because not a single reason for the war in the Balkans has been eliminated."

"We (Muslim-Croats and Bosnian Serbs - IF) confronted each other for 500 years, and this confrontation may continue as long. In that case, there are two ways out: peaceful separation or destruction of any of the conflicting sides," he said.

He thinks conditions for the elections have not been formed. "The international community is using double standards, supports only the Muslim-Croat side and accuses Serbs of all deadly sins."

Still, the Serb Republic will participate in the elections. "We need them at least to enable the republican leaders to tell the international community — see, all of your demands have been fulfilled," said Dutina.

He thinks the way out is the use the U.N.-guaranteed right of every people to self-determination. "To my mind, it is necessary for Serbs to live with Serbs, Croats with Croats and Muslims should form their state on territory they are now living," said the Bosnian Serb representative.

The relations between Belgrade and Pale "have grown colder," he said.

At the same time, Bosnian Serbs "will never be the first to take arms. The war is over for Serbs. We will seek our political goals with political means. This I could say with all the responsibility," he stressed.

"The Dayton agreements for Bosnia is a fiction of, primarily, Americans, but the worst peace plan is better than war.

"The division of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been made. We received our 49 percent, and will dispose of our land and our fate as all peoples of the world," said Dutina.

Russia: Seleznev: Ukraine's Ban of Foreign Bases Jeopardizes Treaty

WS0107082996 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0130 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 29 — Ukraine's constitutional ban on foreign troops based on Ukrainian territory and political interference by Western countries jeopardizes a comprehensive treaty between Ukraine and Russia, according to Russian Duma Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev Saturday [29 June].

Seleznev said Russia has declined to sign the treaty, largely prepared already, because of final division and disposition of the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] based in Sevastopol. Russian want to continue using the base. Progress on the BSF issue depends entirely on legislative manipulations of the newly adopted Ukrainian Constitution ban of foreign military on native soil, he said. If Ukraine's Rada [parliament] rejects allowing Russian BSF personnel based in Crimea, the treaty will not be signed, according to Seleznev.

Seleznev also said relations between two countries may be jeopardized by Western countries looking to thwart closer integration between CIS countries.

Yet another complication is the independence movement in Crimea, Seleznev said.

A group of Russian Duma members and Ukrainian Rada deputies has been created to tackle these issues, according to Seleznev.

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However, Seleznev said this alone will not solve the problems and that Ukraine has to create analogous structure on relations with all branches of Russian power. He also insisted Ukraine has to be presented in the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly not as an observer, but as an active member.

Meanwhile, in Russia's upper house, CIS Issues Committee Chairman Oleg Bogomolov said recently the lower house failed by six votes to override the veto of its law on unilateral reduction of the BSF originally submitted Dec. 8.

Bogomolov maintained the need for this law because of the unstable geopolitical situation has formed in the Black Sea region, including Turkey's aspirations for leadership in the region through joint operations with NATO and Black Sea states of Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria.

According to the committee chairman, loss by Russia of its position in this region may result in serious economic consequences.

Russia: Baltic Presidents' Washington Remarks Viewed

MM0107100996 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Stanislav Kucher: "The Baltic States Had Four Presidents. Three Were Defenseless, Is the Fourth Clinton?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — The Washington National Press Club is a respectable establishment which attracts only outstanding politicians, scientists, and figures of culture. As a rule they are invited singly and spend an hour or two answering questions from a fitting public. The simultaneous appearance before the flower of American journalism of three international leaders — the presidents of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, who were on an official visit to the United States — was all the more remarkable.

The first to speak was Algirdas Brazauskas. Recalling M.S. Gorbachev with a smile ("as he let Lithuania go he said that we would not survive without Russia, but we have been able to") he gave a serious description of today's harsh realities ("Berlin is 800 km from us but Moscow is the same distance"). Concluding his speech with a historical digression regarding the question of the status of Kaliningrad-Koenigsberg and expressing the hope that Russia will display goodwill, Brazauskas gave his place on the rostrum to his Latvian counterpart Guntis Ulmanis.

In his speech Ulmanis was more specific. Lithuania is between the East and the West. The threat to Lithuania (from the East) is a threat to all Europe and consequently to the United States. So it is essential to expand NATO as soon as possible. And America's role here continues to be enormous.

The last to come to the microphone was the Estonian Lennart Meri, the oldest of the Baltic presidents and in contrast to his counterparts he spoke without an interpreters. His speech, as Anatoliy Chubays would have put it, "drove the last nail into the coffin of American illusions." "For us Russia has always been a conqueror.... Our desire to become NATO members is further proof that we are oriented to the West. You must recall that we are the most pro-American region in Eastern Europe. Russia is far from pro-American."

This final remark caused a lively reaction in the auditorium. A French journalist sitting next to me noted that France for once, like Russia, sins in not considering itself a pro-American power....

While brilliantly parrying most of the reporters' questions the presidents did not answer the main one — why they had come to the United States "in a single package" and what they had succeeded in achieving by the visit. Obviously afraid of the resurrection of the Russian empire, the friendly trio intended to obtain from the United States guarantees of political and military support for the Baltic states in the immediate future.

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Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin To Take 'Brief Rest' From 'Enormous Burden'

LD2806163996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1553 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is going to take a brief rest from the enormous burden he has been carrying over the recent days, first presidential aide Viktor Ilyushin told a news conference in Moscow Friday.

Yeltsin will take some time to recover, because he has many interesting meetings to hold and statements to make within the next days, Ilyushin said. "Such things should be prepared for," he noted. "I believe that the short rest Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) will take will help him recover as soon as possible to hold the meetings planned."

Asked what he meant by "rest" in this case, Ilyushin said, "I believe that Boris Nikolayevich rests when he works two or three hours a day."

"This is the regime in which Yeltsin will work Saturday," Ilyushin said. After meeting with some of his aides, Yeltsin will leave for his countryside residence, he said.

At the same time, Yeltsin may attend the anniversary of the daily Moskovskiy Komsomolets Sunday, Ilyushin said.

Yeltsin does not plan to meet with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy within the next days, Ilyushin said in answer to an Interfax question.

Nor will Yeltsin meet with his main rival, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov, or any other representatives of the Popular-Patriotic Bloc, Ilyushin said.

He noted that ex-First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays was not working in the campaign headquarters as actively as before.

Russia: Filatov: Yeltsin in 'Excellent Shape' at Country Residence

LD2906090496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0858 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NAKHABINO (MOSCOW REGION), June 29 (Interfax) — President Boris Yeltsin and his team are full of pep, Georgiy Satarov, adviser to the president on political matters, told journalists today.

He said he had met with Yeltsin at a conference with some of his re-election campaigners. The president seemed to have the soar throat, "apparently after his trip to Kaliningrad and after numerous recordings on radio and TV," Satarov said, quoting Yeltsin as saying at the meeting that he needs "another two-three days to regain his fighting spirit in full."

According to Satarov, Yeltsin was in the Kremlin in the morning today and has gone to his countryside residence afterwards.

Satarov and Sergey Filatov, head of the Coordinating Committee of the All-Russia Public Movement in Support of Yeltsin's Re-Election have arrived at Nakhabino near Moscow to attend a session at the Public Organizations' Council of Moscow's Region.

Asked by a journalist in what shape he thinks the president will approach the second round of elections, Filatov replied "I think in excellent shape, and you will see it". "Everything will be all right," he added.

"We shall see powerful Boris Yeltsin before July 3," said Sergey Yushenkov, member of the Political Council of the Russia's Democratic Choice party and State Duma Deputy from a Moscow Region's constituency. "President can always mobilize himself at the most crucial moments to appear fit and strong before his voters" Yushenkov said.

Russia: Yeltsin Meeting With Moldova's Snegur 'Delayed'

AU0107070596 Paris AFP in English 0656 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 1 (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin called off a planned meeting Monday with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, the Kremlin said.

The spokesman said that the meeting was not on Yeltsin's agenda.

Yeltsin's meeting with Snegur at the Kremlin was "delayed" at Moscow's request on Sunday, a spokesman for the Russian embassy in the Moldovan capital Chisinau said.

The spokesman, Yevgeniy Lepustin, said no reason was given for the change.

It had been earlier announced that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma would also attend the meeting. However, the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow said Kuchma had not been planning such a trip.

Yeltsin, who faces a run-off election against Communist challenger Gennadiy Zyuganov on Wednesday, has been in the countryside outside Moscow to rest what officials said was a lost voice since Saturday.

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Russia: Yeltsin To Record TV Address Despite 'Sore Throat'

LD2806145896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin is well, but has a sore throat, chief campaign officer Sergey Filatov told the activists of the nationwide Interethnic Union in Moscow Friday.

Yeltsin had similar problems in Yekaterinburg in February 1996 when he announced he would run for re-election, Filatov recalled.

However, he said Yeltsin should take care of his throat, because he will have to record a televised address.

Russia: Premier Briefs Yeltsin on Lyon Summit; No Talk of Reshuffles

LD0107104396 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 1 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin met the president today to brief him on the outcome of the Lyon summit. According to presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev, there was no discussion at the meeting of any reshuffle.

[Video shows Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin at table, Yeltsin facing camera and Chernomyrdin in side profile. Yeltsin looks relaxed, speaks quite clearly if deliberately, and smiles. He is then shown in close-up. There are no identifying captions on the film]

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] So you did a good job of representing Russia at Lyon?

[Chernomyrdin] It all went okay. We discussed global economic issues, Boris Nikolayevich.

[Yeltsin] I get the impression, just the feeling, that more progress was made than at previous meetings of the G8.

[Chernomyrdin] That's right, Boris Nikolayevich.

[Yeltsin] You also sense that?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, yes, I do.

[Yeltsin] Well, Viktor Stepanovich, the most important thing right now is the election. The decisive moment is now approaching for all of us. I have no doubts of course that Russia will be a thriving and happy country. [Yeltsin grins] [end recording]

Russia: Kulikov Reports Three 'Terrorist Acts' in Past 48 Hours

LD2806213296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Kulikov, minister of internal affairs, said today that three terrorist acts were carried out in the country over the past 48 hours alone, in Dagestan, Nalchik and Arkhangelsk.

[Begin Kulikov recording] The incident in Moscow and today's incident in Nalchik cannot be evaluated for certain. Unfortunately we do not know who is involved in this terrorist act. However, it is at any rate clear that it is an attempt to intimidate the population. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The minister did not specify who was behind these acts but emphasized that purely criminal organizations and political movements alike could be involved. Kulikov said that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in collaboration with the Defense Ministry, has taken urgent measures to ensure the safety of citizens. Security has been stepped up at all especially important facilities.

[Begin Kulikov recording] I will not conceal the fact that reserves are on heightened alert. Armed reserves of internal troops have been brought up and temporarily deployed near the center, so that measures commensurate with the situation as it develops can be taken quickly. [end recording]

Russia: Filatov Links Nalchik Explosion to Poll Results

LD2906103696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1031 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NALCHIK-NAKHABINO (MOSCOW REGION), June 29 (Interfax) — Head of the Coordinating Committee of Yeltsin's elections campaign Sergey Filatov believes that Friday's terrorist act in Nalchik — blast in a bus — was prompted by the results of voting in the first round of presidential elections in Kabardino-Balkaria.

The blast killed five persons; 20 or so passengers were injured.

Addressing the Council of Moscow Region Public Associations in the town of Nakhabino on Saturday, Filatov said: Kabardino-Balkaria was the only Muslim republic in Russia, where Yeltsin was in the lead. The terrorist act in Nalchik, Filatov said, may reflect a reaction of the Muslim, primarily Chechen, world to the

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results of voting in the first round of Russian presidential elections.

When asked by Interfax to comment on what Filatov said, the president's political affairs adviser Georgiy Satarov, who also took part in the Council's session, said that "it is necessary to await the results of investigations."

Russia: Kulikov Announces Heightened Alert After Nalchik Explosion

LD2806190296 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the bus explosion in Nalchik, Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov said the following.

[Begin Kulikov recording] The whole North Caucasus region from 1200 today has already been put on heightened operational footing and from 1800 throughout the country we have put on a patrol-post service and road patrol service, as well as departments not directly subordinated to the departmental protection on heightened operational footing.

We have been bringing in troop reserves, involving internal troops in patrolling and are taking a number of other measures to exclude possible terrorist acts.

As interior minister, I would like to declare to the whole population that conditions will be provided on 3 July so that all voters can express their will on the Russian presidential elections. Any illegal act will be strictly prevented. [end recording]

Russia: Kulikov: Militia on Alert But No Return of Purge Era

LD2806213996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2056 GMT 28 Jun 96

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov told Itar-Tass on Friday that the programme of fighting organised crime would be discussed at a session of the Security Council at the end of July.

"We have outlined a number of urgent measures against crime at meetings with Secretary of the Security Council Aleksandr Lebed, primarily measures against street crime and economic crimes. It is also necessary to reinforce investigators' teams specializing in combating organized crime," Kulikov said.

Asked if any extraordinary measures might be taken now, Kulikov assured that "a comeback of 1937 is not expected, but in connection with the second round of elections militia has been put on alert for a week already."

Russia: Lebed Questions Clinton's Reaction to Comments on Religion

LD3006163296 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Lebed, evidently unsatisfied with addressing the electorate in written form, had recourse to the assistance of television today. He asked for support from his 11 million supporters and called upon the citizens of Russia to turnout to vote on 3 July.

[Begin Lebed recording] There can be no return to the past today. Things are difficult, hard [words indistinct]. The only way is ahead. I understand what a test it is: It is summer, there is the weather, God has sent another day off to water the vegetable patch! But you have to go vote so that you do not have to dig trenches in the vegetable patch afterward. I want to appeal separately to all of those who are hoping to rock, in the final account, to sink our common boat through any provocation. I would like to say simply to them man to man: Don't! The talk will be a short and tough one! It will be painful at first. Then they will all be in jail. [end recording]

In Lebed's opinion, the future of the Russian Government is doomed to be a coalition one but no single party should be in charge of the power-wielding structures.

[Begin Lebed recording] Nevertheless, people who are politically committed will be in charge of the power-wielding ministries, that is obvious. The Army is beyond politics. We will arrive at that sooner or later. [end recording]

Gen. Lebed was quite surprised to hear that the U.S. President was concerned about a number of things he said on religious issues.

[Begin Lebed recording] I don't understand at all what the very esteemed President of the United States of America took such offense at. I am categorically against anyone teaching us how we should live in our land. I would like to see what the Americans would do if we landed some Old Believers somewhere in Alabama, who would begin to knock them into shape there, to teach them how to live, what they should believe, what they should bow to. There are spheres upon which it is simply impolite to encroach. Therefore, I don't see any

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basis for panic. He evidently got the wrong report. That happens sometimes. [end recording]

The Security Council secretary is absolutely convinced that the Lebed-Yeltsin duo will win on 3 July for, as the general said, real men are always valued in Russia.

Russia: Government Discusses Inviting Opposition To Join Cabinet

LD3006153096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 30 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian government on Sunday discussed the issue of inviting some opposition leaders, including top Communist official Aman-geldy Tuleyev, to join the Cabinet, Tass learned from informed sources.

Russia: Two Lebed Deputies on Security Council Replaced

MM2806162496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sergey Filippovich Kharlamov and Vladimir Yuryevich Denisov have been appointed deputy secretaries of the Security Council by Russian Federation presidential directives.

Vladimir Arsentyevich Rubanov and Aleksandr Nikolayevich Troshin have been relieved of their duties as deputy secretaries of the Security Council in connection with a reduction in staff numbers.

Russia: Russian Internet Sites Listed

964F2578D Moscow ITOGI in Russian 21 May 96 No 2, p 59, 61

["Materials gathered by Artemiy Lebedev": "Russian Resources on the Internet"; WWW sites published in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our compatriots made their appearance on the WWW [World Wide Webb] a fairly long time ago—at the beginning of the 90's. But initially their presence there was purely formal—nobody tried to give the visitor useful information and nobody worked on the layout of the pages (that is what personal positions on the WWW are called). Success did not come until last year.

Perhaps it is still too early to seriously classify Russian resources on the WWW—the pages existing on the net through the efforts of our compatriots. So far these resources are not so numerous, and they are diverse. A large share of them are in the United States (the pages are maintained mainly by students from Russia). There are also quite a few pages with Israeli addresses. Although when you enter them you might not notice that you have gone abroad: The WWW is constructed so that boundaries are erased.

So let us become a little more familiar with what a Russian might find on the Internet as of today.

Commercial Projects

Russian firms have not yet recognized the advertising potential of the Internet and the WWW in particular. But certain of them—mainly those who sell computers—have already opened their own pages.

But the first Russian book store has appeared on the WWW—Kirillitsa (http://www.clever.net/cyrillica), which can be regarded as the first commercial project. So far it contains about 1,000 books. You can buy a book you like and pay for its delivery through the savings bank or send a check.

Literary Projects

An interesting site, "Russian Literature on the Internet," is maintained by Alex Farber from Germany. Collected on his page (http://iaiwww.uni-muenster.de/cgi-bin/simplex/lat/lit.html) are references to all the newspapers and magazines that exist on the WWW so far and also collections of prose, poetry, and songs.

The Hussar Club (http://www-personal.umich.edu/-kolpakov/club.htm) [".htm" as published] of Valeriy Kolpakov from Michigan is very popular. This is a real club which brings together a multitude of "hussar lieutenants," "dragoon colonels," counts," and "princes" (the ranks and titles, naturally, are pulled out of the air). Club members and their guests participate in literary competitions.

Newspapers and Magazines

There are already newspapers and magazines on the network. As is usually the case, the smaller publications have devoted more attention to the WWW than, for example, KOMMERSANT, which has not yet managed to create its own page, but resides in an abridged version along with others on the page "Russia On-Line" (http://www.online.ru). At the same time, for example, the newspaper of the MFTI [Moscow Physics-Technical Institute] ZA NAUKU (http://www.ripn.net/infomag/newspapers/n001r/) has its own page. And it is free.

The magazines BEAT (http://www.spb.su/beat/1/koi/index.html), COMPUTER WEEK (http://www.ritmpress.ru/), and PETERBURGSKIY ZHURNAL ISKUSSTV (http://www.arcom.spb.su/art/

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front-door.html) ["front-door" is hyphenated at the end of a line in the column and could be "frontdoor"] are worthy of attention.

Entertainment

If there were only news and dry information on the Internet it would not be so popular. An immense number of people in the world get their entertainment on the WWW. This includes crossword puzzles, games, anecdotes, and daily cartoons. But none of them are done by our people. We do not yet have the possibility of doing this with any regularity or, the main thing, professionally. But many are already taking this path and, possibly, in time they will be the first in this area.

The Amber Consulting Firm maintains an excellent page "Enjoy" (http://www.enjoy.ru/)—which houses the magazines NE SPAT! IGRY V ROSSII and HI-FI & MUSIC MAGAZINE. It gives an almost complete list of all the nightclubs, restaurants, clubs, and radio stations (with prices). A separate section is devoted to describing modern trends in music, drinks, and styles. This page deserves praise for its good design and successful innovations in makeup.

Dima Verner is the author of the page "Russian Humor" (http:/www.pa.uky.edu/-verner/lat.cgi./an.html). Every day you can read a digest of the latest anecdotes and also visit other humor collections.

There is also a great deal that is entertaining on the aforementioned page N.Zh.M.D. (http://pobox.com/-tema/rrr/choose.html).

Government Organizations and Banks

The Moscow mayor's office began its own page not so long ago (http://193.232.232.88). The federal government and also administrations of the president of the Russian Federation have also designated pages on the net but so far they are half empty.

The first of the large financial organizations to open its own page was the bank Russian Credit (http://www.roscredit.msk.su/). After it came Most-Bank (http://www.most.ru/) and TverUniversalbank (http://www.sft.fact400.ru). So far none of the pages can boast of beauty of design, content, or polish.

Bibliography

The Piter-Press Publishing House is preparing a book "Internet Yellow Pages: Russian Resources." If you send them your address by e-mail (postbook@piter-press.spb.su) in the fall they will send you a 300-page publication worth approximately $4.

All the addresses given can serve as a good start for endless travels on the net. And in the not-too-distant future you will open your own page. But so far the Internet is still an innovation. And when the author proofed the text of this article with a spell checker it suggested replacing the word "Internet" with "Internat".

Military Issues

Russia: Lebed: No Dismissals Among Top Brass Before Elections

LD2806124796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1236 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 28 (Interfax) — There will be no dismissals in the top echelon of the armed forces before the second round in the presidential elections, Aleksandr Lebed, secretary of the Russian Security Council, said in a letter he sent to the Defense Ministry Friday, a senior ministry official told Interfax.

Lebed dismissed rumors circulating the ministry of imminent dismissals and made it clear that no reshuffle is in the offing before July 3.

Russia: Defense Ministry Rumor Says 71 Generals To Be Dismissed

MM2806154096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Seventy Generals in Line for Chop"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is a slight panic in the offices and corridors of the Russian Defense Ministry. There is a rumor that the president will very shortly be signing a new edict that has already been drawn up on the dismissal of yet another group of top Army officials.

Among those at the top of this "proscribed list" are the names of deputy defense ministers Colonel General Vladimir Churanov, chief of the Armed Forces Rear Services, and Colonel General Anatoliy Solomatin, chief of Construction and Billeting of Troops; Colonel General Yevgeniy Vysotskiy, chief of the Main Directorate of Personnel and Military Education, and his deputy Lieutenant General Valentin Yakovlev.... In total, the word on Arbat Square is that dismissal notices have been drawn up for 71 (!) generals.

Nobody can as yet explain who drew them up and why they have been drawn up. Officials are sternly recalling that "in the Army presidential edicts are not discussed but carried out," unofficial sources are pointing to the "new broom" — Security Council Secretary and presidential National Security Assistant Lebed — while the more temperamental are taking the attitude that

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it is high time that "Grachev's Augean stables" were cleaned.

In any other country, the Defense Ministry says, merely the tragedy on Russkiy Island or articles about the huge losses and embezzlement in the financial and economic activity of the Main Directorate for Trade would have been sufficient cause for this action to be taken. But our corrupt Army officers, like the Rear Services chief, subsequently still take the Duma rostrum and state that journalists are whipping things up. Then they rush to build themselves multistory out-of-town residences costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. And none of the deputies or representatives of law-enforcement organs thinks to ask where the money came from.

Clearly, everyone had been expecting Lebed.

Our attempt to verify the rumors about the new edict were unsuccessful. The Presidential Staff said that it had no such information and that no meeting between Lebed and Yeltsin is planned in the next two days.

The impatient will have to wait a little longer.

Russia: Agency Tips Four More Generals for Dismissal

LD2906164896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 29 Jun 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ARGUMENTY I FAKTY agency has learned from circles close to the presidential administration that another four key figures in the Defense Ministry and General Staff are due to be dismissed before the second round of the election. The first of these is the chief military inspector of the Defense Ministry, Army General Konstantin Kobets. It is expected that Col-Gen Vladimir Churanov, deputy minister and head of the rear of the armed forces of Russia, Col-Gen Yevgeniy Vysotskiy, head of the chief directorate of cadres of the Defense Ministry, and Col-Gen Anatoliy Solomatin, deputy defense minister in charge of construction and troop billeting, will all be dismissed.

Russia: Pacific Fleet Conducts First Ballistic Test Launch 28 Jun

LD0107061996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0542 GMT 1 Jul 96

[By Yevgeniya Lents]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK July 1 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Pacific fleet has successfully carried out its first simultaneous test launch of ballistic missiles from several nuclear submarines sailing in various parts of the ocean, a spokesman of the Pacific fleet command told Tass on Monday.

The launches were made during staff exercises of the fleet on June 28 with the "aim of testing the actual combat readiness of the nuclear deterrence forces of the Russian Navy. Their results were recognised as successful", the spokesman said.

"Such an exercise demands maximum precision and a high degree of skills from the personnel of nuclear submarines as the missiles were launched to a considerable distance which complicated the coordination of the whole operation", the spokesman added.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Criminal Investigation Instituted on Nalchik Bus Explosion

LD2906103796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1029 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NALCHIK, June 29 (Interfax) — Ruslan Abazov, prosecutor of the internal Russian republic of Kabardino-Balkaria in the North Caucasus, on Saturday instituted a criminal case on the June 28 explosion of a passenger bus going from Mineralnye Vody to Vladikavkaz.

The criminal case was instituted under article 213 part 3 of the Russian Criminal Code (terrorism), Abazov told Interfax.

Five people were killed and over 20 people were hurt in the bus explosion on the square near the bus terminal in Nalchik on June 28.

The criminal case will be investigated by experts in the Russian Federal Security Service's Kabardino-Balkar department, Abazov said. Leading experts of the Federal Security Service, including Federal Security Service First Deputy Director Aleksandr Bespalov, have also joined the investigation.

Experts have not so far determined the type of the explosive device that went off in the bus. A group of investigators of the Russian Interior Ministry, Federal Security Service and the Kabardino-Balkar prosecutor's office is currently working at the scene of the explosion.

Russia: Chechen Vice Premier Denies Knowledge of Attempt on Zavgayev

MM2806152696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jun 96 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Chuykov: "Was There an Assassination Attempt on Doka Zavgayev?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev's program to physically wipe out members of the legitimate

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Chechen Government is being purposefully carried out. An example of that is the assassination attempt on republic leader Doka Zavgayev on the evening of 27 June," Chechen Premier Nikolay Koshman stated in a telephone conversation with IZVESTIYA. He told journalist Aleksandr Chuykov that "this abortive act of terrorism was particularly cynical because they tried to stage it during the peace talks on settling the crisis." The attempt was foiled by gunmen of the Chechen Special-Purpose Police Detachment, who spotted the suspicious individuals in good time. On the site of the foiled crime five demolition charges were discovered — the perpetrators had planned to use them to blow up the cortege of government vehicles. But many government members — and, in particular, Vice Premier Abdulla Bugayev — stated that they knew nothing about an assassination attempt against the head of the republic.

Russia: Chechen Talks End; Delegations To Resume Discussions 3 Jul

LD2806212396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOUTH CHECHNYA, June 28 (Interfax) — Talks between the delegations of the Russian federal authorities and the armed Chechen opposition in the Chechen settlement of Noviy Atagi 25 kilometers to the south of the Chechen capital of Groznyy ended at around 8:00 p.m. Friday [28 June].

The sides exchanged opinions on a broad range of problems relating to the implementation of the Moscow and Nazran agreements, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russian Nationalities Minister and chief Russian negotiator at the talks, told Interfax after the talks were over.

The heads of the working groups on military problems — Commander of the Russian federal troops Vyacheslav Tikhomirov and Chechen rebel forces commander Aslan Maskhadov — delivered reports, he said. Those at the talks also heard reports of the heads of the working groups dealing with the exchange of prisoners of war and hostages.

The two delegations agreed to hold another meeting on July 3, Mikhaylov said. This meeting will be preceded by meetings between the working groups on military problems and the exchange od detainees, primarily meetings between Tikhomirov and Maskhadov, he said.

The Russian delegation handed the Chechen opposition information about over 400 attacks on Russian troops and the death of over 30 Russian troops since the signing of the peace accords in Moscow in late May, Mikhaylov said.

During the future talks the two sides "are obliged to discover the reasons for the failure to implement the existing accords," Chechen rebel forces commander Maskhadov told Interfax.

He accused the Russian side of reneging on the existing agreements and in particular of creating new check points and detaining 27 people.

Mikhaylov and Maskhadov praised achievements regarding talks on the exchange of POWs. The sides included in the Nazran protocol a clause on the need to exchange all POWs and detainees on an all-for-all principle, they stressed.

Russia: Federal Delegation Holds Consultations in Dagestan

LD3006111396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1034 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makhachkala, June 30 (Interfax) — On June 30, leader of the Russian delegation to the talks in Chechnya, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, and his deputies Sergey Stepashin and Vladimir Zorin, met with Chairman of the Dagestan State Council Magomedali Megomedov in Makhachkala where they had arrived earlier on Sunday.

An Interfax correspondent reports that the two sides discussed the social and political situation in Dagestan, preparations for the second round of presidential elections and the situation on the Russian-Azerbaijani border.

Sergey Slipchenko, the press secretary of Russia's State Commission for Chechen Settlement, told Interfax that the Dagestani leaders had highly appraised the federal delegation's constructive position at the talks with the Chechen separatists.

He also quoted Magomedov as saying that "Dagestan is particularly interested in the earliest possible stabilization of the situation in neighboring Chechnya, because it has found itself practically cut off from the rest of the world and closed from the north and from the south. All this has negatively affected the republic, where unemployment is growing and the industry is almost at standstill.

In view of this, Magomedov expressed hope that the talks between the federal delegation and the Chechen separatists will be a success and that the stabilization of the situation in Chechnya will become irreversible.

In his turn, Mikhaylov praised the Dagestani leaders for ensuring ethnic peace and stability in their republic and in the whole of the North Caucasian region, said Slipchenko.

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Mikhaylov thanked the population of Dagestan for their ability to resist entanglement in ethnic conflict.

He described multi-ethnic Dagestan as "a laboratory of ethnic relations and an example of peace and good-neighborliness between the peoples of the Russian Federation."

He reaffirmed the federal delegation's determination to continue making efforts to settle the Chechen crisis peacefully despite provocative statements by individual leaders of the armed opposition.

In the afternoon June 30 the members of the federal delegation flew out to Derbent (in the south of Dagestan) where they discussed the socioeconomic situation in the Derbent region and the forthcoming presidential elections with the local leaders.

Slipchenko said that from Dagestan the federal delegation is to return to Groznyy for talks with the Chechen separatists scheduled for July 2 and 3.

Economic Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Signs Edict on Support for West Siberian Company

LD3006092796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0919 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, June 30 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree "On state support of the West-Siberian Metallurgical Complex joint-stock company," the presidential press service announced on Sunday.

Yeltsin emphasized the need to provide state support to this company in order to help it stabilize its financial situation, upgrade and develop its production capabilities and attract both Russian and foreign investments.

Yeltsin instructed the Russian government to consider the earmarking of financial support for the West-Siberian Metallurgical Complex, including the provision of guarantees on foreign credits and the investment tax credit in line with the program to rejuvenate the company, the press service said.

Russia: 'Inclined' Ruble Rate Takes Effect 1 Jul

LD0107094596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0859 GMT 1 Jul 96

[By Irina Bolshova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 1 (Itar-Tass) — A new mechanism for the regulation of the official foreign-exchange rate of the rouble — the so-called inclined rate — takes effect in Russia on Monday, July 1.

From now onwards, the rouble rate is to be fixed every day by the Central Bank within the limits which are not to be transcended. A decision to this effect is known to have been taken way back on May 16 at a meeting in the Office of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and was subsequently itemised in a joint statement issued by the Russian government and the Central Bank.

Today the Central Bank fixed the official rate of the rouble for July 2 at 5,119 roubles per dollar, with the lower limit of the permissible fluctuations being 5,003 roubles and the upper one being 5,603 roubles.

On the strength of the Central Bank forecast, a table of the values of limits of permissible fluctuations of the foreign-exchange rate of the rouble has been drawn up. According to the table the limits will shift by 2-3 roubles daily towards the amount of 5,500-6,100 roubles by December 31. This, in experts' view, will render the Russian currency market more predictable, strengthen foreign partners' trust in the rouble, and create conditions for a transition to the full convertibility of the rouble.

The rate fluctuation limits have been determined on the basis of the estimates of expected inflation rate changes. It was precisely the lack of such an adjustment for inflation that Russian exporters used to complain of, regarding that as the main drawback of the so-called currency corridor (band) arrangement, which has been in effect since July last year.

Russia: Lukoil VP Fedun on Extraction, Refinery, Pipeline Plans

MM0107095296 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jun 96 p ii

[Article by Denis Kirillov: "Focus of Lukoil's Interests Shifts South"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lukoil is one of the few oil companies which last year not only managed to halt the decline in the volume of oil extraction but also increased extraction by 27 percent compared with the previous year. Exploration and extraction are a crucial sector of the company's activity. The company currently accounts for 18.7 percent of all Russia's exploration and extraction work. In 1995 this yielded 73 percent of Lukoil's gross profits and 65 percent of its net profits. The increase in oil extraction made it possible to increase exports by 38 percent compared with 1994, and the volume of refining at its own capacities rose by 11 percent. This year the company intends to maintain extraction levels at 57.3 million tonnes.

According to Lukoil Vice President Leonid Fedun, in the future the company hopes to continue extraction in

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West Siberia and the Urals and begin active extraction work in the south of European Russia. The company is planning to acquire promising new fields in the Lower Volga region on a competitive basis. The company is paying special attention to the development of Russia's Caspian shelf. This region is extremely attractive to Lukoil for a whole series of geological and technological reasons. For example, the average yield of a new well in West Siberia is 20-29 tonnes a day, whereas in the Lower Volga it is 200-250 tonnes and in the Caspian region it is up to 1,000 tonnes. The plan is that Lukoil's expansion of geological prospecting and extraction outside West Siberia and the shift in the focus of that work to the south will make it possible to ensure steady oil extraction at a level of 55-60 million tonnes a year.

Leonid Fedun said that one of the company's most important tasks is to increase the volume of Lukoil's sales in the Russian market by 50 percent. Profits from the sale of refined oil in 1995 were 1,126 billion rubles [R] as against R335 billion in 1994. Net profit exceeded R850 billion. In the petroleum products sector Lukoil now accounts for 11.2 percent of all oil refining in Russia. Gross revenue from sales is R527.9 billion and is up by 125 percent compared with 1994. In order to increase its percentage share of the sales market the company is working on the project to build the Southern Oil Refinery in Krasnodar Kray at a cost of around $1.5 billion. The refinery has a design capacity of 9 million tonnes of oil a year from West Siberia and Kazakhstan. The implementation of this project will make it possible to resolve the problem of the shortage of petroleum products in Russia's southern regions, which is estimated at 12-16 million tonnes a year. For the implementation of the project a consortium has been formed including Transneft, ABB Lummus Global [as transliterated], Agip, and Mitsui. The Southern Oil Refinery is going to be built 30 km from the port of Novorossiysk and could increase Lukoil's export potential by 2001-2002, when the refinery is due to go fully on stream. Even before the commissioning of the Southern Oil Refinery it is planned that the total output of petroleum products will rise to 26-30 million tonnes a year.

In addition, Lukoil is taking part in the project for the construction of the Urals-West (Perm-Almetyevsk-West) oil pipeline, which will be over 500 km long and have a capacity of 5.2 million tonnes a year. According to the business plan the total cost of the pipeline is $174 million. The commissioning of the pipeline will reduce transport costs by a factor of almost three compared with rail transport and, in Leonid Fedun's words, make it possible to deliver output to Moscow Oblast.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Wants NATO 'Partnership,' Not Membership

MM0107084896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Jun 96 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "L. Kuchma's Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] L. Kuchma has denied claims that have appeared in the past few days about Ukraine's aspiration to "associate membership" of NATO. The Ukrainian president stated as much to journalists during his visit to the Polish Sejm, at the end of the working program of his official visit to Warsaw. He said: "I have no idea where that formula has come from. There is no such thing in our political vocabulary as associate membership of NATO. However, Ukraine does aspire to a special partnership with NATO. That partnership would boil down to broader relations with NATO in various spheres than we have at present under the '16 plus one' formula."

Going on to address the deputies, L. Kuchma stated that "Ukraine has no objection to Poland's joining NATO, because it considers NATO a factor for stability and security in Europe." He advocated Ukraine's joining the so-called "Weimar triangle" within whose framework Polish-German-French political cooperation is carried out. "I am convinced," he stated, "that the development of cooperation between Kiev, Warsaw, Bonn, and Paris will avert the danger of new dividing lines emerging on the continent and will promote the creation of an unprecedented zone of security and stability in Europe." He also proposed the formation of a Ukrainian-Polish battalion for participation in peace operations under the aegis of the United Nations, the YeES [as published: ?European Economic Union], and NATO, and also within the NATO and the YeES joint tactical forces [as published].

At the same time, from what Kuchma said, Ukraine "is not indifferent to the way the process of the North Atlantic Alliance's eastward expansion proceeds." "We are supporters of an evolutionary approach to the expansion of NATO," he stated. "At the same time, the pact must be reformed as it expands, or, if possible, beforehand."

Ukraine: Zhirinovskiy: 'Russia Must Stop Providing Free Power'

WS0107082896 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0116 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, June 29 — Russia must stop providing free power and raw materials to Ukraine and must force Ukraine to repay its billion-dollar debt, according to the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) Leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Zhirinovskiy told "INTELNEWS" that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has made mistakes while forging relations between Russia and Ukraine, and he noted that in order to accelerate negotiations between the two countries, Russia must stop supplying free power resources to Ukraine.

The Russian liberal-democratic leader stressed that the status of the Northeastern and Eastern regions of Ukraine must also be considered during any negotiations between the two countries. "These regions", he says, "are typically Russian regions and they have to be annexed to Russia according to referendum performed there".

In regard to Western Ukraine, Zhirinovskiy described the region as "a buffer zone between Germany and Russia", and said the region should no longer be part of Ukrainian territory because of problems with Ukrainian nationalism.

Ukraine: Transfer of Russian Nuclear Fuel Supplies Begins

LD2806232396 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 28 Jun — The implementation of the transfer of Russian nuclear fuel supplies for the reactors of the Chernobyl nuclear power station [NPS], approved by Ukraine and Russia in accordance with the agreement on compensating Ukraine for the nuclear warheads withdrawn from its territory, has begun. UNIAN news agency learned about this on 28 June from the information center of the administration of nuclear regulation at the Ukrainian Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety.

The first consignment of nuclear fuel, which has recently arrived at the Chernobyl NPS, should last until October taking account of the planned stoppages of reactors for repairs.

On 28 June, the third reactor of the station resumed work at full capacity, due to the arrival of the fuel.

According to the schedule, two more consignments of nuclear fuel, each 50 percent larger than the first, are to arrive at the station before the end of the year.

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Ukraine: OSCE Decides To Extend Mandate of Mission in Ukraine

LD2806232296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 28 Jun — The Permanent Council of the OSCE decided at its plenary sitting to extend the mandate of the OSCE mission in Ukraine until 31 December 1996. UNIAN news agency learned about this on 28 June at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In its decision the OSCE Council notes that the Permanent Council had taken into account the statements of the Ukrainian delegation of 14 May and 27 June and the memorandum of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 17 June concerning the activity of the mission. It welcomes the progress reached in the full implementation of the mandate and instructs the head of the mission to present to the Permanent Council a comprehensive report on the full implementation of the mandate by the end of September 1996, which will become a basis for a decision on a future mission.

Before this decision was adopted, the Permanent Council had been addressed by a statement of the head of the Ukrainian delegation, Ambassador Mykola Makarevych. The statement noted the positive assessment by the Ukrainian government of the expert assistance of the mission and its contribution to the regulation of the problems involving the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Ukraine: Article Banning Foreign Military Bases Seen Ill-Conceived

MK2906063796 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Viktor Zamyatin: "Ukraine Wants To Join NATO. A Bill To Be Paid Instead of Political Concessions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the Supreme Council of Ukraine finally formulated its view on one of the most sensitive problems, which could drastically complicate Russian-Ukrainian relations should attempts be made to resolve it head-on. The Supreme Council deputies adopted by a constitutional majority Article 17 of the new Constitution, which rules out the deployment of foreign military bases on Ukrainian territory. The article is a response to Russian intentions to declare Sevastopol its naval base. But, to all appearances, Kiev has not calculated in advance all possible consequences of its decision.

Article 17 has only recently emerged in the draft Constitution, after the draft was agreed upon by a specialized parliamentary commission. It has caused the most conflicting views. First of all, its foreign policy aspect has been singled out: Ukraine has long warned Russia that it has already exhausted its limit of concessions in the negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet and the status of Sevastopol. Now Ukraine has every reason to state: The Russian phrasing of the draft interstate treaty, which recognizes Sevastopol as Russia's naval base, runs counter to Ukrainian legislation. But Leonid Kuchma has single-handedly added the following paragraph to the "Transitional Provision" of the new constitutional draft: "The use of military bases on Ukrainian territory for the temporary stay of foreign military units that are already deployed here shall be allowed only on lease terms." Currently, the only such unit is the Black Sea Fleet. It is the period of a possible lease, however, that has become the stumbling block. Proposals for 5-, 10-, and 15-year lease periods were voted down. The latest option — 20 years — was proposed by Kuchma. His view was echoed by former prime minister Yevhen Marchuk: With a shorter lease period no foreign military will invest money in the development of infrastructure in the area of its deployment. But this proposal has not been passed yet either.

There is also another — domestic — aspect to the problem. In the view of the deputies themselves the article was clearly added for the purpose of provocation so as to thwart the adoption of the entire new Constitution by the parliament. However, the expectation by representatives of the executive authorities that the "left" and pro-Russian parliamentarians would spurn this article — and the Constitution along with it — has not been borne out. At the same time, those who included this article in the draft Constitution failed to take account of a number of factors. The thing is that upon adopting it, Ukraine will lose the opportunity to provide its territory for foreign bases in the event that a military threat emerges in the vicinity of its borders: No Ukrainian ally will be able to give Kiev or its allies the helping hand, because it will be barred from deploying its air force or troops on Ukrainian territory. What is absolutely unclear is the status of the Yavoriv testing range in Lviv Oblast, which Ukraine planned to make available for the training of international peacekeeping forces. This testing range has been the venue of first the Ukrainian-American and then multinational exercises called "Peace Shield-95" and "Peace Shield-96" as part of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. In addition, the plan for converting another testing range, in Mykolayiv Oblast, for the same use has not yet been approved either. Upon the definitive adoption of this article Ukraine could partially close a source funding its Defense Ministry.

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Ukraine: Iran's Velayati 'Satisfied' With Tripartite Meeting

LD2806151196 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jun 28 (IRNA) — Meanwhile, the Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati rounded up his Kiev meeting at the end of which he told reporters that he was satisfied with the results of the meeting, praising the efforts of Ukraine and Turkmenistan in bringing about the expansion of regional cooperation.

Iran's foreign minister added that after the the first and second round of meetings in Tehran and Ashgabat, now in the third round of the meeting in Kiev "we have reached a practical stage for cooperation".

The Iranian foreign minister noted that through the efforts of the experts of three countries during the past three days, necessary grounds have been laid for the inking of memoranda of cooperation.

Velayati pointed out that today we are witness to the creation of a favorable ground for cooperation among the three countries, something unprecedented in the past.

The foreign minister stressed that "we respect international conventions and agreements and expect others to act accordingly."

Ukraine: Iran's Velayati Delivers Rafsanjani Message to Kuchma

LD2806162196 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, June 28, IRNA — Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is on a tour of Kiev to attend the third Iran-Ukraine-Turkmenistan economic cooperation meeting, in a meeting with the Ukrainian president, Leonid M. Kravchuk, on Thursday [27 June] submitted him with the message of his Iranian counterpart, President Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Kravchuk expressed satisfaction with the results of the trilateral talks and cooperation, announcing the interest of his country in expanding regional relations and cooperation.

He also voiced satisfaction with the results of the joint commission of the two countries held in Tehran in June described the commissioning of Sarakhs-Tedzhen railroad link as an important development for the region's economic growth.

Iran's foreign minister thanked the serious and constructive efforts and cooperation of Ukrainian officials in expediting the triumviral meeting and said if it had not been for Ukraine's effective cooperation it would not have been possible to gain access to practical accomplishments, nor would it have been feasible for the cooperation to take the present shape.

At the meeting the latest political development in Ukraine and the recent order of that country's president for holding a constitutional referendum were discussed.

Ukraine: Udovenko, Japanese Foreign Minister Open Talks

LD0107104296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0820 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Japan regards Ukraine as a key country in the Eastern European region, Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said opening talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Hennadiy Udovenko in the morning of 1 July.

According to Udovenko, the visit by the Japanese foreign minister is viewed within the context of Japan's growing interest in Ukraine.

Today Ikeda will also meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma, Moroz Welcome New Constitution

LD2906203296 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After all-night debate, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted the Ukrainian constitution in the morning [of 28 June]. Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Chairman of the Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz held a joint news conference on this occasion.

Svitlana Shramko attended the news conference.

[Shramko] It was an unusual morning on that day. Having worked hard throughout the night, the Supreme Council adopted the fundamental law of the state. Therefore, the handshake of the president and the chairman of the Supreme Council at the news conference proved that there were differences in Ukraine but there was no confrontation.

Describing the specific features of the current moment, the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, said:

[Begin Kuchma recording] What happened today speaks for itself. I have already said today that a history-making event took place in the life of Ukraine, the people of Ukraine, and not only Ukraine, and this is not

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an exaggeration. I also believe that the civilized world will appreciate what has happened (?over the past few days) in Ukraine, post-Soviet republics of the former USSR: at the parliamentary level, incidentally five years later, the state's independence was confirmed. No matter how many events have taken place in our life over this period of time - and they were significant events, like the adoption of the Declaration of State Sovereignty, referendums - it was a really significant, history-making event, when the parliament and the president confirmed the sovereignty of the state on behalf of the Ukrainian people, and I believe they had the right to do so. And we all have the right to be proud of this.

The fact that the entire Ukrainian people today obtained what, in my opinion, [word indistinct] we had been waiting for, proves that we all have become more mature today. And I am grateful to every deputy, especially to the provisional ad hoc commission set up by the Supreme Council, and to Mykhaylo Syrota [chairman of the commission]. I think he proved it in practical terms that he is a son of the Ukrainian people.

I think, we should express our gratitude to the parliament of the first convocation. Oleksandr Oleksandrovych [Moroz] and myself were deputies to that parliament which laid down the basis of the constitutional process. It did not succeed before, but all the better, perhaps, because we have become much more clever, and the constitution which was adopted today really conforms with this.

Today I cannot but express my gratitude to all political forces in our society, particularly those in parliament, no matter what stand they abided by before now - leftwingers, rightwingers and centrist forces, as they use to say here - to the socialist and communist factions in parliament, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the People's Democratic Party and the Liberal Party - excuse me if I fail to mention all of them - the Christian Democrats and to the centrist forces which have no party affiliation at all. My sincere gratitude to them for the fact that they raised themselves above their party interests and voted in favor of stability in the state. Because the constitution is a beginning of a new stage in the life of Ukraine.

I cannot but express my gratitude to the chairman of the Supreme Council, Oleksandr Oleksandrovych,for his wisdom, tolerance, balanced approach and, most importantly, political will and will as such. Thanks to him, this process did take place. I think you will agree with me. Because if he wavered, we would have been on the opposite sides of the barricades today, and we would have been facing three months of something incomprehensible for the majority of people ... [pauses] who wants what and who defends what. People could not understand at all what was happening, because when there are conflicts in the top echelons of power, this does no credit to those who are responsible for them. [end recording]

[Shramko] The president also assessed the work done by the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Oleksandr Moroz.

[Begin Kuchma recording] He proved that the top legislative body of Ukraine does exist, the body which is faced with a huge volume of work to be done. If he continues to work as fruitfully and, most importantly, for the benefit of the final goal, I am convinced that the most wonderful times in our life will be awaiting us; although, from the economic point of view, there are much more issues than those we have already resolved.

I am pleased to inform you that I had a one-and-a-half-hour long conversation with Oleksandr Oleksandrovych last Saturday. To be honest, it was the first fruitful conversation aimed at reaching understanding - Ukraine is a priority, not Kuchma or Moroz, and people are waiting from both of us cooperation and clear decisions aimed not at stirring up confrontation but at a gradual solution of the current problems. [end recording]

[Shramko] Oleksandr Moroz told the news conference about the work done by the Supreme Council over the past 24 hours.

[Begin Moroz recording] We did an unbelievably difficult job today. It seems it would be impossible to repeat this. The deputies worked from 2200 to 1002 when the flag was hoisted and the anthem was played in the session hall.

The feeling of responsibility before the state and for the future of the people, the feeling that it was necessary to overcome the danger that people could face during the referendum and so on, all this prevailed over contradictions and differences of opinion, and this manifested itself best of all in numerous votes on sections and norms of articles. And I think it was also a remarkable event, because people were waiting for it. What happened became a landmark in the development of our state.

Today I am grateful to all those who were voting in favor of separate articles and to those who were voting against. They had the right to do so, they had their convictions, they were defending their election programs. The feeling of responsibility before the electorate was present in the session hall all the time, responsibility for what they will tell people after something that happened.

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The most important things - the state, society, prospects for the future and preservation of unity - were at stake today, in order to overcome the tremendous economic difficulties which are now facing our society and our state.

I understand that the situation will be difficult, that it will be still more difficult, and if we added political troubles to the existing difficult situation and to the difficult future awaiting us, there could have been a double impact on our state and our society. Therefore, I believe that this united people of different political views, and they were ready to compromise, and this produced a positive result. [end recording]

[Shramko] During that hard day, both leftwingers and rightwingers manifested their patriotism and loyalty to Ukraine. This is why President Leonid Kuchma was pleased to note:

[Begin Kuchma recording] It is always important to me, when I am wrong, [word indistinct] to apologize. Taking into account the fact that I met journalists recently, last Saturday, I expressed some ideas in this connection as regards cooperation with the Supreme Council factions. I would like to apologize today before the communist faction in the Supreme Council and say that the Communist Party of Ukraine [incomplete sentence as heard]. [end recording]

[Shramko] Oleksandr Moroz' words can be a good summary of the day.

[Begin Moroz recording] We have common concerns and a common cause - the state, Ukraine, economy, people's wellbeing, and there is so much to be done and so many problems to be solved, that we have no time for other things. [end recording]

[Shramko] Meanwhile, Leonid Kuchma added:

[Begin Kuchma recording] I think we have reached a consensus worthy of Ukraine. I am glad about this. [end recording]

[Shramko] Ukraine is also glad that it now has the new constitution, the constitution of an independent state. Lying ahead is hard work on overcoming the economic crisis and working days brightened by the new fundamental law of our independent Ukraine.

Ukraine: Lazarenko Says Priority To Implement New Constitution

LD2906140896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1120 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "This graduation ceremony at the Ukrainian Academy of Internal Affairs is taking place at an historic moment, when the fundamental law of the state, the Constitution, has been adopted. It is very good that it was adopted precisely by the Supreme Council, which thus displayed its wisdom and balanced approach," Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko told the graduates of the academy on 29 June.

On the government's and his own behalf, the prime minister expressed gratitude to people's deputies and the chairman of parliament for their history-making decision. At the same time, Lazarenko said it is largely thanks to the Ukrainian president that the Constitution was adopted.

From now on, the government's main task will be to implement the provisions of the fundamental law, which means in practical terms "to achieve economic stabilization in the state," Lazarenko said. "The government's priority task, as before, is to support domestic production. For this purpose, it is necessary to ease the tax burden, carry out restructuring, attract investments, and reduce energy consumption," Lazarenko said.

The prime minister said the cabinet's priority task is also to overcome the payments crisis. "The government is working actively on this problem," he said.

On the government's behalf, Lazarenko congratulated the staff of the Ukrainian Academy of Internal Affairs on its 75th jubilee. This year, 750 officers graduated from the academy. As many as 3,500 students are studying at the academy's five departments full time, and 4,500 students by correspondence.

Ukraine: Lazarenko Says 80% of Revenue Used To Clear Wage Arrears

LD2906141196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0925 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The government is taking measures to abide by the schedule of settling the arrears of wages and social benefits, so that payments are not delayed for more than one month, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko told a conference in Cherkassy on 28 June, which was attended by members of the government, leaders of regional state administrations, and trade union representatives. The conference was devoted to issues of overcoming the payments crisis.

The prime minister said 80 percent of external and internal revenue is now used to clear the debt. The budget-funded establishments and organizations that failed to receive their wages for three to four months, are now being financed.

Lazarenko said Ukraine is to receive about $910 million in foreign aid by the end of 1996, and this will make

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it possible to mobilize part of that sum for social payments.

Lazarenko said the main trends in the government's future activities are as follows: to reduce budget spending; establish control over every item of budget spending; streamline the system of paying benefits to the population; support domestic producers; reduce the volume of barter operations inside the country; improve the discipline of payments made by regions to the state budget; and raise labor productivity.

Ukraine: Premier Says Situation 'Has Barely Improved'

LD2806165996 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1110 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cherkassy — There are some benefits as a result of the steps taken by the government over the last month, but the situation in Ukraine has barely improved, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who is in Cherkassy Region on a working visit, noted during a conference of government members, local bodies of power, and trade unions on 28 June. In his words, the situation is becoming complicated because of the level of wage arrears, which is constantly increasing. "It is impossible to increase tariffs on housing and municipal services in such conditions," Pavlo Lazarenko said. In his view, "it will be possible to move forward and adopt a decision" only on condition that the payment of wages is not delayed for more than a month.

The Ukrainian prime minister said that, as of 1 June, wage arrears for those working in state-financed organizations amounted to 81,000 billion karbovantsi, while as of today, the figure has already reached 86,000 billion karbovantsi. The increase can be explained by the fact that education workers have received their summer salaries. The prime minister noted that the government "is in control of the situation and could improve it."

Lazarenko said that the government has settled with farm workers for the advance payments for grain supplied under state contracts. He said that resolving some problems, connected with the production and sale of spirits, and liqueur and spirit distilling, will enable the budget to receive a considerable amount of extra revenue by the end of the year.

Lazarenko stressed that the government's next steps will be a decision on regulating the production and sale of tobacco products.

Ukraine: Aide: Ban on Foreign Bases May Take 20 Years

LD2806141896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, June 28 (Interfax-Ukraine) — It is possible the constitutional ban on foreign military bases in Ukraine will enter into force only in 20 years, Chairman of the Ukrainian President's National Security Council Vladimir Gorbulin told Interfax-Ukraine Friday.

Gorbulin commented on his negotiations with the Russian President's international aide Dmitriy Ryurikov.

Ryurikov is "very interested" in this constitutional norm of Ukraine, he said. "He was quite satisfied with the report on delayed introduction of the norm."

According to Gorbulin, Ryurikov plans to discuss Ukrainian mediation in negotiations on Transdnestr settlement.

Asked whether they have discussed the Ukraine stand on NATO expansion, Gorbulin reminded Interfax-Ukraine he had already commented on the statement of Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennady Udovenko and the speech of Ukrainian diplomat Igor Kharchenko and described them "as not quite proper."

Udovenko addressed a NATO conference in Warsaw on June 21 and called for a special partnership between Ukraine and NATO "which could be defined as an associated membership of Ukraine in the NATO international organization."

Ukraine: Crimean Tatars Hold National Congress

LD3006093796 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The 3d Kurultay, or national congress, of the Crimean-Tatar people completed its work in Simferopol yesterday [29 June]. The delegates discussed topical issues of repatriating their compatriots, once deported from Crimea, and settling them on the peninsula.

A resolution adopted by the Kurultay says that a qualitatively new political and socioeconomic situation has taken shape during the period under review. A dialogue between the majlEs [Crimean Tatars' parliament] and the top bodies of state power in Ukraine has got under way. Legitimate representatives of the Crimean Tatar people have become part of the Crimean bodies of power. The authorities have made first steps showing their intention to solve in a comprehensive manner the problems facing the [Crimean-Tatar] deportees.

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The guidelines for the activities of the majles in the next five years, adopted by the Kurultay, envisage stepping up work for the restoration of the rights of Crimean Tatars.

The Kurultay elected new members of the majles and its chairman. Recognized Crimean-Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev was reelected chairman of the majles.

Economic Issues

Ukraine: Official Underscores Russian Economic Ties

AU2806151896 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 22 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with Leonid Vasylyovych Minin, Ukraine's deputy minister of economy, by Yuriy Kornyev; place and date not given: "Integration to Mutual Advantage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his department, Leonid Vasylyovych Minin, deputy economics minister, coordinates issues of economic ties with Russia and other CIS countries. A professor and doctor of economic sciences, he has a reputation as a pragmatic and sensible person who has done much to establish new approaches to the integration of the Republics of the former USSR under the conditions of the collapse of the old system and transition to economic relations on a new basis. The opinion of a specialist, who has taken part in all of Ukraine's economic negotiations with Russia and other CIS countries over a number of years, presents considerable interest.

All the more so because L.V. Minin has to his credit quite significant practical work experience in various branches of the Ukrainian economy. He has worked at enterprises and research institutions of instrument building and chemical industry, and taught at the Kiev Institute of Ukraine's National Economy [KINGU]. He is one of the authors of the Program for Restructuring the Economy (the conceptual variant), of the Concept for Ukraine's State Policy, and of the Main Trends of the State's Regional Economic Policy. He is a chairman of coordination councils for drafting regional socioeconomic programs.

[Kornyev] Leonid Vasylyovych, do you believe that the economic union of the CIS countries has long-term prospects?

[Minin] Let me first touch upon Ukraine's status in the economic union. Ukraine is one of the CIS founders, but at the same time no more than an associate member of the economic union. Our legislation envisages that Ukraine should not take part in military-political alliances, and rules out the creation of supranational structures. These norms were adopted by the preceding Supreme Council. It is possible that they are outdated, but they function. This hampers the process of Ukraine's active participation in the CIS. We have to work while constantly keeping in mind these reservations. One must, however, clearly realize that the formation of any international alliances entails the need to sacrifice national interests to some extent. Any alliance is a compromise.

On the other hand, in the CIS, too, the processes of economic and other types of integration proceed in an unsatisfactory way, both in terms of their speed and quality. More than 400 various accords were signed, but the majority of them do not work, because there is no mechanism for their implementation. In 1994, the CIS Interstate Economic Committee was created. It was a decisive step in triggering integration processes. However, not infrequently the apparatus of the CIS Interstate Economic Committee tries to interfere with the functions of national structures and set tasks for ministries and departments of our countries, apparently in a bid to justify its existence, rather than develop the very ideology of the economic union or coordinate the fulfillment of the decisions adopted.

Speaking about prospects for CIS functioning, it is, in my opinion, necessary to take into account at least two circumstances. First, there is the dissimilar rates of the integration processes that can already be seen today. There is a bilateral accord between Russia and Belarus and a quadripartite accord between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. There is the CIS, which involves 12 countries. The states are at dissimilar stages of readiness for integration processes and for economic reforms. What is, for example, in common, in the economic aspect, between Tajikistan, which is in a state of war, and Russia, which has advanced quite far in the way of economic reforms? Such countries as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have their own ideas of economic reform and transformations, whereas Russia and Ukraine have theirs. That is why it is inevitable for economic integration processes to proceed at dissimilar paces. Russia naturally tries to stand up for its economic interests on the territory of the former USSR and somehow unite countries that are totally different in their mentality and economic structure. However, the prospects of CIS development must take into account the circumstance that I am speaking about.

Second, these are political implications of integration. This is a particularly significant factor for Ukraine, which wants to maintain its independence both economically and politically. It is only natural that the fast integration processes that do not take into account new realities give rise to fears in Ukraine, because they are associated with a possible loss by it of its political indepen-

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dence. This makes a certain part of the Ukrainian parliament, executive power, and society suspicious. The dissimilar degrees of readiness of different countries for integration processes, and their dissimilar assessment of the possible political consequences that fast integration may entail, must be allowed for.

There are countries that are members of the CIS economic union but do not, in fact, take part in its activities. They do not sign many of the accords, or ignore proper representation during their signing. Nor should one turn a blind eye on the irreversible integration processes in the Islamic world. They do take place. Under the auspices of Turkey there exists an unregistered union of Central Asian states, Azerbaijan, and Iran that have their own interests and plans. This should not be ignored.

As it watches all of these processes, Ukraine gives preference to bilateral ties with Russia. A mixed Ukrainian-Russian economic cooperation commission, presided over by the heads of state, has been created. Such a commission is more efficient, because it is easier for two countries to come to an agreement than for 12.

[Kornyev] What are the fundamental trends in the economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia?

[Minin] The accord on free trade between the two countries must be implemented, without any exceptions or serious restrictions in imposing import duty, excise, or the value-added tax, so that goods may be imported from one side to the other with similar levels of taxation. So far there have been quite a number of exceptions insisted upon by Russia, including for imports that are most important for Ukraine — fuel and energy sources. The activity of the CIS must be based upon an agreement on coordinated restructuring of the economies of the participant countries. At Ukraine's initiative such an agreement is being drafted. Its absence causes great harm, disrupts rational ties that were established over years, and leads to colossal additional capital investments in CIS countries. When enterprises that Ukraine needs change their specialization or are closed down in Russia as a result of sweeping privatization, or the other way around, enterprises in Ukraine are closed down or change their specialization, and Russia has to create them anew. The single national economic complex of the former USSR is spontaneously disintegrating. The restructuring and change of specialization of enterprises is an objective process, but it should not be allowed to proceed spontaneously and in an uncoordinated manner.

The accord on the creation of transnational structures is an important step in the bilateral cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. There are five such structures for the time being. They do not necessarily have to be in the form of financial-industrial groups.

I mean the creation of various types of associations, consortiums, and joint enterprises in various organizational-legal forms. These companies produce aluminum or manufacture pipelines for the oil and gas industry with the participation of Kazakhstan, manufacture grain-harvesting machinery, develop equipment for manufacturing polymers with the participation of Belarus, and others. We have sent to the Russian side proposals on the creation of 30 such transnational structures.

The development of production cooperation is an important trend in the economic cooperation. The 1993 Ashgabat accord on this problem that was adopted by the CIS countries is one of the few that function. However, there is still much there to develop further.

[Kornyev] What is the criterion for the effectiveness and expediency of Ukraine's economic integration with Russia or other CIS countries?

[Minin] I am a supporter of integration processes in Ukraine's economic cooperation with Russia or other CIS countries, but new realities and, understandably, mutual advantage must be taken into account. We need those integration processes that will lead to maintaining the scientific-technological potential and its further development, the creation of competitive products on the basis of the production possibilities of all the CIS countries, and the mutual increase of exports into third countries. Precisely this is the criterion for the effectiveness of the economic integration and of its expediency.

[Kornyev] What investment trends in Ukraine will, in your opinion, prevail?

[Minin] I think that investments in Ukraine will mainly come from Russia. Owing to its greater resources and scientific-technological potential, our neighbor will rise to its own feet sooner. Ukraine does not have such natural resources as Russia does to carry out its restructuring. However, common standards, mentality, knowledge of the language, and personal ties — all of these will dictate Russian capital's main trend of investment. Unlike Western businessmen, Russian ones are not afraid to work in the Ukrainian market. That is why Russian capital must inevitably flow and is already flowing into Ukraine, which is in bad need of investment. This means new jobs and the development of the economy and its restructuring.

[Kornyev] Some economists and politicians maintain that Ukraine must look to the West and not to the East, because in the West, they say, there are advanced technologies, modern management, and other constituents

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of economic transformations, and that Ukraine should distance itself from Russia both politically and economically.

[Minin] Those processes that are taking place in Ukraine point to quite the opposite. Distancing ourselves from Russia would lead to an uncontrolled and avalanche-like severance of ties and a slump in the economy, a process that is largely chaotic.

The entire historical experience indicates that our interests on the markets of raw materials and sales are in Russia. Any oil or gas that will be supplied to us in condensed form or by tankers will always be more expensive than Russian oil or gas coming through pipes. This is the conclusion reached by international experts who worked in Ukraine. It is also more expensive to import timber from Canada than from Russia. The same applies to nonferrous metals, diamonds, and so on.

As things stand now, the abrupt (up to 15-20 percent compared with the level of 1990) decline in production in Ukraine somewhat obscures the acute need for Russian consumers. However, as soon as our industry starts rising to its own feet and manufacturing products, we will not persevere unless we have an eastern market. It would be economic myopia to ignore this fact.

Ukraine's political freedom depends upon its economic freedom and might. We must proceed precisely from this.

Ukraine: Deputy Prime Minister on Nonpayment Crisis

WS2706111296 Kiev IMENEM ZAKONU in Ukrainian 21 Jun 96 p 2

[Interview with Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukrainian deputy prime minister for economic reform issues, by L. Obertynska; place and date not given: "Viktor Pynzenyk: 'We Currently Can and Should Repay Overdue Wages'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The difficult socioeconomic situation in our country is currently the main, if not the only factor aggravating the general crime-breeding situation. One can even claim that these two areas are so connected that is it hard to find a rescue rope which will lead society out of the vicious circle of problems.**

Nevertheless, it is necessary to search for a way out. In this search, everybody should do their job: Positive results will only be achieved through joint efforts.

On its pages, the IMENEM ZAKONU weekly regularly updates its readers on what the Ukrainian Police is doing to safeguard our life and protect our property and interests. Today, we offer first-hand information about how the Cabinet of Ministers is searching for a way out of the protracted payment crisis. This and other issues are the topics of an interview with Viktor Pynzenyk, deputy prime minister for economic reform.

[Obertynska] For a majority of our readers, the most important question currently is how the government is going to resolve the problem of overdue wages.

[Pynzenyk] Nobody will praise us if we will repay overdue wages with one hand, and take them away with the other one. I have in mind a situation in which debts are repaid by printing new money.

This means that we would not pay people the same wages as they used to receive: Such karbovantsi [K] would be devalued in advance. However, I believe that we currently can and should repay overdue wages, and I can say that the situation has improved in this area since the third decade of May. For example, as of 27 May the total debt amounted to K237 trillion, and as of 1 June — to K219 trillion. In the budget sector, the debt amounted to K65.5 trillion as of 21 May, K61.8 trillion as of 27 May, and K59.7 trillion as of 1 June.

Nobody can currently promise that this problem can be resolved instantly because this would require making a decision which would be very dire for the state. I have in mind a money emission. This step can be taken very easily, but it is very hard to reap its benefits.

The main thing is to maintain the current tendencies. I think that the work which has been conducted in the regions has produced positive results. It is aimed at changing the structure of budget expenditures.

[Obertynska] Another increase in prices for electricity is expected on 1 July. In connection with the nonpayment crisis, many citizens are simply unable to pay for communal services. Is the Cabinet of Ministers going to continue the program for housing subsidies, which was meant to redistribute communal payments according to the triangle of social justice? [sentence as published]

[Pynzenyk] A situation in which people do not pay for communal services is not normal because nothing comes as a godsend. To enable more citizens to receive subsidies, a variety of changes and simplifications have been introduced into the program.

I have already sent a few appropriate telegrams, and I would again like to tell the readers that the lack of money in a region cannot become a reason to refuse subsidies. As it is, an individual does not receive cash. Therefore, a specific payer has nothing to do with this

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matter. These are the relations between local authorities and us, the government. An individual should be granted subsidies, and then the authorities should calculate and transfer the amount which this individual pays.

We would like to avoid long lines and citizens' complaints in case changes occur. We will extend office hours of the departments dealing with housing subsidies and hire more people. These departments will work Saturdays and Sundays.

[Obertynska] A wave of protests from small merchants has recently swept Ukraine due to the passage of the Law "On Licensing Certain Types of Business Activities." The goal of this law is to include in the budget money which is concealed in order to avoid taxes. Is the indignation of businessmen justified, or has it been prompted by their unwillingness to pay taxes?

[Pynzenyk] I will cite one very interesting figure: The correlation between people's consumption and official money incomes is three to one. That is, on average people consume three times as much as they earn. This indicator clearly confirms that in our country a large amount of money is in the "shadow," and a large amount of cash is circulating outside banks. This money is in shadow circulation, that is, a sector which is currently not paying taxes.

Undoubtedly, it is impossible to collect more taxes from those who are already paying them. We must look for money in those sectors of the economy which are currently not paying taxes, and as you can see, these numbers confirm that this is a huge reserve.

Attempts are being made to introduce a fixed tax in areas in which control is impossible. I have already explained this, and will once again emphasize that this law does not concern physical persons who pay market taxes, business taxes, or state duties. As far as I know, deputies are currently preparing certain changes and clarifications to avoid equivocal interpretation and make certain articles of this law more precise; this would make it impossible for officials to arbitrarily apply this law to those for whom it was not meant. Additionally, a draft bill which has already been prepared envisions expanding a list of products that can be sold without a license, which actually represents a preliminary tax.

[Obertynska] How is the state going to resolve the problems of trust companies' depositors?

[Pynzenyk] A number of laws have already been drafted, and I will describe some of them. These are very complex and serious laws, such as "On Trust Administration of Property" and "On Financial Services."

Many debates have been held on these draft bills. In the new legislation, a new ideology of regulating the activities of trust companies is being developed. There will be no succeeding responsibility, as was envisioned in the previous law — our infrastructure, our institutions are currently not ready to ensure constant control — but a preceding responsibility. Therefore, with regard to trust companies, we apply approximately the same system of regulation which the National Bank of Ukraine is currently applying to commercial banks. The National Bank is constantly supervising the everyday activities of commercial banks. The law envisions setting up a special committee to control nonbanking financial operations.

It is also envisioned to set up a fund to partially compensate for citizens' losses caused by the activities of trust companies in the period 1993-95.

[Obertynska] Our current conversation confirms that the state's economic and legal fields are overlapping, that is, the imperfection of the legal basis often brings about economic difficulties. Do you think that a new constitution will be able to become a guarantee against the arbitrariness of lawmakers and officials, in the sense that an average citizen will be able to defend his economic interests?

[Pynzenyk] The constitution itself will certainly not be able to do so. This depends on the course of economic reforms. However, a situation in which laws which go beyond the current constitution's legal jurisdiction having to be passed is not normal. This is nonsense, and this scares many serious investors who would invest in the Ukrainian economy. The current draft of the Basic Law secures the people's right to business activities and private property. And if it is finally passed, the disproportions between the current law and the fundamental provisions of our state's constitution will disappear.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Plans To Introduce 'Strict Economy Regime'

LD0107082596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0727 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 1 (Interfax) — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has voiced his intention to introduce "an overall strict economy regime" in the republic, to affect above all "servants of people" at top and local levels.

Speaking on Belarusian television last night, Lukashenka said that now, when the republic is in trouble, the heavy burden must be borne by all citizens, from president to commoner. "Top functionaries must not aimlessly loaf abroad at the people's expense," Lukashenka said, adding that the introduction of tough measures will be justified morally and politically.

Warning against interpretation of the planned strict economy drive as a dictatorial gesture, the president described it as "a normal measure that has long become a normal phenomenon in the economically developed democratic states."

Lukashenka said he was looking forward to hearing proposals on the issue from all top state officials today.

He voiced concern that all presidential proposals on strict economy have been resisted by the Belarusian parliament, which "despite people's troubles, continue to demand from the president apartments in Minsk, cars and currency for foreign travel."

Calling parliament "an ulcer," the president declared that its actions and decisions are "rather troublesome by nature."

He gave an assurance, however, that "those who wish to blow up the stabilization that has shaped up in the republic and to put the state on the brink of a civil war will fail to do so."

Belarus: Syanko Previews Upcoming Foreign Visits

WS0107085096 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0820 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 27 June — At a regular briefing held on June 27, Uladzimir Syanko, Belarusian foreign minister, informed reporters of the forthcoming events in foreign-policy activities. As was reported by BELAPAN earlier, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's visits to France and Turkey are scheduled for July. In Mr. Syanko's opinion, the visit to France will be of great significance, because it will favor the expansion of contacts with Western countries. Lieutenant General Leanid Maltsaw, Belarusian defense minister, is expected to visit the United States in July. Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir will make a visit to Lithuania. On June 20 [date as received], the foreign ministers of Belarus, Ukraine, and Poland will meet in Brest to discuss questions concerning regional cooperation, including that within the European Region "Bug." Mr. Syanko pointed out that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively preparing for a summit organized by the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is to take place in Portugal at the end of the year.

Mr. Syanko also reminded those present that Belarus is seeking membership of the Council of Europe. The recent events — the admission of Belarus to the Conference on Disarmament and to the Central European Initiative — are evidence to the fact that the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs tries to carry out intensive diplomatic activities.

Belarus: KGB Collegium Discusses Foreign Intelligence Priorities

WS0107083596 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0820 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, June 28 — As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the Information and Public Relations Center of the Belarusian State Committee for State Security (KGB), on June 27, the KGB Collegium considered questions related to the improvement of the activity of the Foreign Intelligence Office, defined its priorities and specified criteria for assessing its work. Uladzimir Matskevich, Belarusian KGB chief, pointed out that though at present the KGB has to perform some functions inherent to law enforcement bodies owing to the complicated domestic situation, foreign intelligence is an integral part of the committee's activities. That is why it needs special attention. The same day Mr. Matskevich met with a group of former KGB top-ranking commanders. During the meeting he emphasized the importance of the adoption of the law on KGB by the Supreme Soviet.

Moldova

Moldova: Snegur, Russian Officials Hold Talks on Dniester Memorandum

AU2906182496 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2133 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 27/6/1996 (BASApress) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur met Boris Pastuhov, Russian foreign vice minister, and Dmitriy Ryurikov, Russian presidential adviser on international problems today.

Snegur expressed hope that Russia will ratify the Treaty on Principles of Interstate Relations, which "will

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push ahead mutual advantageous ties," according to a presidential release.

Snegur also spoke on the "importance and fitness of signing by the Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian presidents the memorandum on normalization of Moldovan-Dniester relations."

But, according to him, "the majority of country's population does not accept the confederalization and is unanimously against Moldova's dividing."

Snegur believes that "this political option is correctly understood" by Yeltsin and Kuchma. He "suggested looking for a clearer definition of the status of the region, which at the same time must not run counter to the Moldovan Constitution. This might be achieved at meetings with Tiraspol leaders and consultations between experts' groups," says the release.

Moldova: Moscow, Kiev Sign Memo Normalizing Chisinau, Dniester Ties

LD2706201896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 27 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, June 27 (Interfax) — The upcoming signing by Moldovan, Russian, and Ukrainian presidents of a memorandum to return relations between Moldova and the Transdniester region back to normal is "timely and significant," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur declared at a meeting with Russia's First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and the Russian President's Assistant on International Affairs Dmitriy Ryurikov in Chisinau on Thursday.

Pastukhov has told Interfax that the document is to be signed in Moscow on July 1 or 2.

Addressing Pastukhov and Ryurikov, Snegur stressed the importance of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's efforts to patch up the rift between Moldova and Transdniester by peaceful means.

Although "the dialogue between the sides has been going smoothly, one side should meet the other halfway, if Transdniester's problems are to be solved at last."

Snegur claimed that "the absolute majority of Moldova's population do not accept the confederation formula and unanimously speak out against splitting the republic."

He urged participants in the talks on Transdniester, attended by representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, to clearly define the status of the Transdnestr region, not contradicting Moldova's constitution.

Besides, Snegur hopes that the Russian side will soon ratify a treaty on the principles of relations between the two countries to give a fresh impetus to mutually advantageous ties between Moldova and Russia.

When the current presidential elections in Russia and the upcoming elections in Moldova were discussed, the sides wished that the democrats would win to continue reform in their countries.

Moldova: Snegur Welcomes Memorandum on Relations With Transdniester

LD2906172396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, June 29 (Interfax) — The signing of a memorandum on normalizing relations between Moldova and the self-proclaimed Transdniester republic on July 1 will promote the definition of Transdniestria's special status, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said in his statement published in Chisinau Saturday evening.

"This status will be defined at future talks," Snegur said. "Despite my own desire and of the Moldovan leadership to settle this issue as soon as possible, the negotiation process will take quite a long time."

The positions of Chisinau and Tiraspol sharply differ, he explained.

The memorandum obliges its signatories to start developing Transdniestria's status immediately after signing, considering the agreements already reached, Snegur said.

Chisinau and Tiraspol are virtually unanimous that Moldova shall be a "single state, including all regions and cities within the internationally recognized borders," he said.

Snegur dismissed the media speculations that the signing ceremony was timed to the second round of presidential elections in Russia. "This is an occasional coincidence," he noted.

The signing of the memorandum may be regarded as a provisional document of good intention, Snegur said.

Moldova: Snegur Accuses Defense Minister of Inciting 'Mutiny'

AU2906194696 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2059 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 28/6/1996 (BASApress) — The supreme commander of armed forces, Mircea Snegur, sent a letter to General Prosecutor Dumitru Postovan, demanding "urgent examination of the situation" in the National Army, according to a presidential press release.

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The general prosecutor is suggested "taking respective measures in accordance with the law meant to frustrate the attempts to turmoil the situation in the National Army and to prevent it from interference with the political struggle."

According to Mircea Snegur, the respective situation has created "as a result of the failure in solving the problem of reshuffles in the Defense Ministry leadership and in connection with Minister Pavel Creanga's latest statements and actions."

The supreme commander of armed forces "drew the attention earlier to serious cases of embezzlement of state's patrimony at the Defense Ministry, facts confirmed by checks by the Auditors' Court."

The situation in the army "worsened" because the military prosecutor's office and the Defense Ministry, headed by Division General Pavel Creanga, "did not take the measures needed."

"Minister Creanga's intended activity to split the National Army into camps, as well as the destructive activity within the staff continues."

The orders of the supreme commander of armed forces are ignored and high-ranking officers are openly involved into politics, mentioned Snegur.

The president expressed concern with the fact "the fight for the office of defense minister led to revealing certain job and state secrets, to their dissemination through periodical publications."

In this respect the governmental newspaper MOLDOVA SUVERANA (SOVEREIGN MOLDOVA) is implied, which published Thursday the record of a sitting in the army's leadership, as well as certain orders "relating to the state's interests in the defense area." "By his deeds, Division General Pavel Creanga incites to insubordination and mutiny, which is an attempt of undisguised military rebellion," reads the presidential release. The president refers to the statements Gen. Creanga made to BASA, alleging he "is ready to call to arms a campaign for protecting the military department, in case President Snegur tries to fire the minister."

Defense Minister Pavel Creanga considers groundless the accusations against him enlisted in the president's letter to the general prosecutor. Creanga told BASA there were no evidence in the letter to confirm the accusations.

"I am accused of the Army's involvement in politics. But everyone knows that during the sittings in the ministry I keep calling for political neutrality," Creanga said.

The defense minister thinks the files on the ministry's activity, published Thursday by the governmental newspaper MOLDOVA SUVERANA do not contain military or state secrets, as stated in President Snegur's letter to the general prosecutor.

"I assure you I have no idea about the circumstances these documents reached the editorial board, and I have no implication in this action," Creanga said.

"I view the president's letter as another attempt to mislead the public opinion and make me resign from the defense minister post in order to take over the commandment of the Armed Forces," Pavel Creanga stated.

The defense minister also said he never called on the military to insubordination.

The political peaks supporting Pavel Creanga, "seem now more determined to use force, if necessary, to thwart President Snegur's plans," the columnist of the FPCDM [Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova] newspaper TARA (THE COUNTRY) wrote.

According to him, "the basic pieces in this extremely dangerous game are Premier Andrei Sangheli and deputies Anatol Popusoi and Grigore Bratunov," who, to the columnist's mind, persuaded the defense minister not to obey the president's orders.

"Of course, the actual target of the dispute is not the defense minister, who is only a dummy. The stake is higher, and that is victory in the presidential elections," writes the newspaper.

Mentioning "the leftist elements at power proceeded to the formation within the National Army of a military-political group oriented against President Mircea Snegur," the columnist estimates "behind the curtains the ground is hastily being prepared to overturn the current relation of forces."

The court of the central sector of Chisinau started today court actions against Moldovan Defense Minister Pavel Creanga instigated at the demand of the General Prosecutor's Office (GPO.)

Division General Creanga is charged with groundless reduction to a lower rank of Maj. Mihai Druta. On the basis of an order by Creanga, in February 1996 Druta was transferred from the job of deputy head of the Military Policy and Exterior Relations Direction (MPERD) at the Moldovan Defense Ministry to the position of deputy commander of the military college on grounds of non-correspondence to his previous position.

Druta informed the GPO on this case, and demanded his job back.

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The defense ministry refused to execute the GPO's petition to restore Maj. Druta in his job. Druta is the author of the Law on Military Service and was hired in the national army on contract, formerly member of the Moldovan Parliament.

Nicolae Turtureanu, MPERD head, told BASA the minister acted in accordance with the law and it is not about a reduction to a lower rank, but a simple transfer to a new job, taking into account that Druta is an educator.

Moldova: Opposition Paper: 'Little Reason To Be Glad' About Lebed

AU2706132096 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2005 GMT 25 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 25/6/1996 (BASA-press) — Moldovan citizens have little reason to be glad of Gen. Lebed's joining the Yeltsin team, said TARA, publication of the Christian-Democratic People's Front of Moldova [FPCDM].

According to the paper, "pressures against Chisinau will mount, because the inclusion of an unbridled horse like Gen. Lebed into the Russian political race will stimulate the revanchist appetite. The Kremlin agents will work hard to prevent the so-called 'Finlandization' of Bessarabia (fear that Bessarabia will leave the Soviet sphere of influence.)"

Under these circumstances most local political forces will be forced to put up with the policy dragging Moldova back into the Russian sphere of influence.

"A re-elected Yeltsin will not send, of course, troops to Moldova to colonize it again. Russia will prefer to do it without waging a new cold war against the West.

"Besides, last years have proved that a peaceful invasion is just more effective. That is why, whoever wins the elections in Moscow — either Yeltsin or Zyuganov — Moldova risks to be further a victim of an invisible aggression from the East," concluded TARA.

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Armenia

Armenia: Ter-Petrosyan Calls Parliament Into Emergency Session

LD2706194496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 27 Jun 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan issued a decree calling the National Assembly into an emergency session on June 30, an official in the presidential press service told Interfax.

Parliament will debate legislative bills on banks and banking activities, the Central Bank, banking secrets and local self-government.

Parliament is also expected to amend the legislation on administrative division of Armenia.

Armenia: Karabakh, Azerbaijani Officials on New Round of Talks

NC2606194996 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks among the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh will resume in Stockholm on 1 July.

Nayira Melkumian, the deputy permanent representative of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] in Armenia, told SNARK that the talks in Moscow from 14 to 15 June showed that Azerbaijan must give up its policy of imposing its views on the sides.

In Melkumian's view, the existing situation should be taken into account while drafting the agreement on ending the armed conflict, since no agreement can be worked out if it even slightly endangers NKR security.

The Azerbaijani consul in Istanbul, Abbas Abdullah Hajaloglu, declared in his turn that Azerbaijan could protect its land even through war, and that in return for reopening the air route to Armenia Turkey should demand that it return Azerbaijani occupied land.

The Azerbaijani consul's statement does not testify to reality by Azerbaijan. It is obvious from the second part of the statement that Azerbaijan is still trying to drag Armenia and Turkey into the conflict. This, to put it mildly, cannot help the peaceful solution of the problem or preserve stability in the region.

Besides, such statements on the eve of talks do not inspire confidence that Azerbaijan might display genuine goodwill for the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Armenia: Yerevan Seeks Development of Ties With Israel

LD2806222996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1725 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, June 28 (Interfax) — Armenia favors the development of mutually beneficial relations with Israel, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan said at a meeting with Israeli Ambassador Lili Hahami in Yerevan on Friday.

Bagratyan announced that Armenia is ready to conclude several economic agreements with Israel, including agreements on trade cooperation, on avoidance of double taxation and on mutual protection of investments, the Armenian governmental press service told Interfax.

The prime minister supported the ambassador's proposal that the Armenian Embassy be opened in Israel, the press service said.

Armenia and Israel established diplomatic relations on November 26, 1993.

Armenia: Yerevan To Begin Privatization Program 1 Jul

LD3006085096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0759 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, June 30 (Interfax) — Armenia will begin to implement the 1996-1997 privatization program on July 1, 1996.

The program provides for privatizing 3,500 companies, small facilities and semi-built homes.

Armenia plans to complete the privatization of the 7,500 small facilities during 1996-1997, Vachagan Sarkisyan, spokesman for the State Commission for Registration and Privatization of State Property under the Armenian government, told Interfax.

Every Armenian resident will receive a new privatization certificate — voucher — for free, he said. The granting of vouchers to the population will be completed on December 31, 1996.

Armenian residents were previously granted privatization certificates of the old type in 1994. The par value of old privatization certificates is 20,000 drams ($50). New vouchers will be in circulation along and equally with the old ones.

The 1994-1995 privatization program envisaged the privatization of 863 companies, however, Armenia sold off only 416 companies, including 128 agricultural

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companies and 162 production companies, during this period. A total of 2,939 out of the 3,539 state-owned small facilities intended for privatization was sold off during 1994-1995.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Guluzade: Porter Amendment Not To Damage U.S. Ties

NC2706212296 Baku TURAN in English 1310 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 27 Jun 1996, TURAN — The events around "Porter's Amendment" will not cause damage to bilateral relations of Azerbaijan with the U.S., TURAN was told by state advisor for foreign affairs of Azerbaijan Vafa Guluzade.

According to Guluzade, Azerbaijan understands that appearance of the Amendment was caused by the pre-election campaign in the U.S.

"At present America attaches great attention to the forthcoming presidential elections. Pre-election campaign affects also the foreign policy of the U.S.," the state advisor said.

After the elections the American interests will be on the first plan again and there will no such problems as "Porter's Amendment," Guluzade considers.

Azerbaijan: Velayati: Iran May Join Caspian Sea Oil Consortiums

NC2906165196 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 29 Jun 96

["Iran Is Going To Take Part in Newly Created Consortiums in the Azeri Sector of the Caspian Sea" — TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 29 Jun 1996, TURAN — Iran is going to discuss all proposals of the Azeri government on participation in the oil consortiums which are being created," [no begin quotation marks as received] TURAN was told by the Foreign Minister of Iran 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Co-chairman of the Azeri-Iranian commission Gholamreza Shafe'i noted that if Azerbaijan offers Iran will take part in the oil consortium. Joint and long term cooperation for production and export of oil between Iran and Azerbaijan is possible, Shafe'i said.

Azerbaijan: Shafe'i: Iran Ready To Help Restore Karabakh to Azerbaijan

NC2906170196 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Azerbaijan Should Rely On the Help of the Islam World and Not the West, Gholamreza Shafe'i Considers" — TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 29 Jun 1996, TURAN — "Neither the U.S. nor the West can help Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan should hope on the help of Iran and Iranian [as received] world," co-chairman of the Azeri-Iranian Commission Gholamreza Shafe'i said commenting on the amendment of Porter.

In his interview to TURAN he said that Iran condemned those states which create basis for separation of Karabakh from Azerbaijan. And the amendment of Porter, he considers, creates such ground.

Iran always ready to take part in the restoration of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Shafe'i said. Thus, according to him, Iran has enough experience in this sphere after the Iranian-Iraq war.

Azerbaijan: Foreign Minister Receives Europarliament Delegation

NC2706050396 Baku TURAN in English 1900 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 26 Jun 1996, TURAN — Today Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Gasan Gasanov received the delegation of Europarliament headed by Antonio Trakatelis [name as received].

The guest said that Europarliament was interested in the establishment of peace in Transcaucasus and development of interparliamentary relations with the countries of the region.

Trakatelis noted that the delegation would leave Baku for Tbilisi and then for Yerevan. He positively assessed signing of joint communique by the presidents Aliyev and Ter-Petrosyan, signed in Luxembourg, joint declaration by Aliyev and Shevardnadze. Head of the delegation asked also the opinion of Hasanov on the work of the OSCE Minsk group.

Generally Azerbaijan is satisfied with the position of the OSCE, however, most countries, the OSCE as well, do not demand from Armenia fulfillment of the norms of the international law, Gasanov noted.

He believes, that activity of the OSCE group would be more productive if it manage to obtain from Armenia recognition of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

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Gasanov said that some members of the Minsk group demand from Azerbaijan serious concessions in favour of Armenia. "In fact, they demand from us to recognise the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh. We cannot agree to it. Compromise is possible only within the framework of the Constitution," Gasanov said.

Regarding the resolution of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Gasanov said that Baku was ready to provide security not only for some national communities but for all states of the region. However, Armenia takes care only of security of Armenians and refuses to discuss the question on security guarantees for Azerbaijanis, the Minister said.

Azerbaijan: Council of Europe Admits Azerbaijan as Special Guest

NC2906170496 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, 29 Jun 1996, TURAN — Bureau of the parliamentary assembly of the European Council adopted a decision on granting of a status of the specially invited guest to Azerbaijan. By this the members of the Azeri parliament will regularly take part in the work of the Assembly of the Parliament of the EC. First participation of the Azeri parliamentarians is scheduled for September. Chairman of the Milli Mejlis Rasul Guliyev has received an invitation to address at the meeting of the Parliament of the EC.

Georgia

Georgia: Russian Patrol Boat Comes Under Fire Near Sukhumi

LD3006115896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, June 30 (Interfax) — A Russian patrol boat located 600 meters from the coast in the port of Sukhumi (Abkhazia) came under fire at about 11:00 p.m. June 29, the Russian Border Service's information agency told Interfax Sunday.

The boat was damaged but no one was injured. The crew was put into a state of combat readiness but did not return the fire.

Having informed the Abkhazian leaders of the incident, the command of the Caucasian Special Border District expressed their protest against the attack on the patrol boat, the information agency reports. An investigation is underway.

Georgia: Chechen Foreign Minister Calls For Restoring Relations

LD2606144496 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1315 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 26 Jun — The Foreign Ministry's press center has reported that the Deputy Foreign Minister Kakabadze met the Chechen Foreign Minister Ruslan Madiyev (Zavgayev's government), today. The visiting minister said that following certain difficulties in relations with Georgia, which emerged during the was in Abkhazia, the Chechen people and the government were now ready to cooperate with the Georgian people. The Chechen Republic pins hopes on regional cooperation. Madiyev appealed to the Georgian side to assist in restoring monuments of material and spiritual culture destroyed during the war.

The Georgian side expressed the hope that following the victory of progressive and democratic forces in Russia and Chechnya traditional neighborly relations between the two peoples would be restored.

Georgia: Nationalist Leader Fears 'Occupation' by Russia

MM2606142196 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jun 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Mokhov: "Tbilisi Inclined Toward Partnership. Even Though the Radicals Are Using Every Opportunity To Cause Conflict Between Russia and Georgia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — Georgia's national radicals have tried to use the recent cadre changes in the upper echelons of power in the Russian Federation in their own interests. For example, Irakliy Tsereteli, leader of the national independence party, stated at a news conference that the changes in Russia "threaten great trouble for Georgia." Admittedly, he did not spell out precisely what kind of trouble. On the other hand he pointed out that the transfer to Russia of some of Georgia's heavy arms quotas "will be one stage in the occupation of Georgia." To prevent this apparent "occupation," Tsereteli called for the convening of a conference of all Georgia's political forces and stated that the republic's public will support the "anti-occupation movement." In his opinion, the continued presence of Russian military bases on the republic's territory will have an adverse effect on the development of its economy, worsen relations with the West, and even jeopardize the existence of the national armed forces.

Against the background of cautious comments or complete silence from Georgia's top political leadership,

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which seems to be waiting for the result of round two of the Russian election, Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, the republic's defense minister, has given a fitting rebuff to the representatives of the nationalist forces. At a recent briefing he noted that Russia remains one of Tbilisi's main military partners and gives it considerable help in the organization and development of the national army through the training of cadres, the provision of equipment, the restoration of the air defense system, and so forth.

Nadibaidze did not conceal his regret that his recent mission to Moscow, when a schedule for the supply of arms and combat equipment for the Georgian Army was due to be signed, did not end completely successfully. However, he expressed confidence that military cooperation between Moscow and Tbilisi will continue regardless of who Russia's new defense minister is and no matter what the extreme right in Georgia do.

Georgia: Press Names Lebed, Others in 'Conspiracy' Revelations

MM2606153896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jun 96 p 7

[Report by Albert Kochetkov: "'Canard' Tbilisi-Style"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — The newspaper ASAVAL DASAVALI, which is considered independent, and the progovernment newspaper SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA appeared almost simultaneously in Tbilisi a few days ago with sensational revelations about an antistate conspiracy which "poses a threat to Georgia's future." They published the revelations of one Givi Makharadze under the heading "Expose These People, or Else We Will Deal With Them Ourselves!"

He informed his readers that resident agents of the special services of a "foreign country" and its "reactionary forces" are operating in Georgia. Givi Makharadze names among them Panteleimon Giorgadze, leader of the Georgian Communists, and his son Igor, the republic's former chief Chekist; Teimuraz Khachishvili, onetime minister of internal affairs, and Deputy Vazhu Khachapuridze; television journalist Valeriy Kvaratskhelia and...Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed.

The author, as he put it in the newspapers' pages, places these people on a par with "bandits and criminals of various kinds," although none of the aforementioned people has been deemed such according to the procedure laid down in Georgia's laws. Legal experts believe that any freshman of a faculty of law would classify these articles as a most flagrant violation of the presumption of innocence and as spreading information which is known to be false and which denigrates citizens' honor and dignity.

Givi Makharadze, who urges I know not whom to "deal" with "agents of the special services of a foreign country," by which Russia is very clearly meant, is not informed about the fact that its state security services cooperate closely with colleagues in Tbilisi in the common interest on the basis of interdepartmental agreements and have their own plenipotentiary representatives here. In just the same way Georgia's Chekists are represented at the highest level in Moscow.

The Tbilisi newspapers clearly fell for the provocation and tried to make the intelligence services of Georgia and Russia fall out and to mess up interstate relations between friendly countries.

The president himself declared at the last government conference: "It is necessary to analyze the situation with the press and institute proceedings against slanderers."

Georgia: Abkhaz Radio Claims Pact Existed Between Russia, Georgia

LD2906021296 Sukhumi Republic of Abkhazia Radio in Russian 0345 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Abkhaz-Press correspondent has learned from a reliable source that there existed an agreement between the former Russian defense minister, Pavel Grachev, and his Georgian counterpart, Vardiko Nadibaidze. The agreement envisaged that if the Abkhaz-Georgian talks ended in deadlock, Russia would hand over to Georgia up to 20 combat ships and several modern fighter aircraft and helicopters to carry out strikes on the areas where units of Abkhaz armed forces are stationed and to destroy communications facilities and enterprises in order to create favorable conditions for the Georgian army to capture Abkhazia with minimum losses.

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Estonia

Estonia: Meri Discusses U.S. Visit, Meetings With Clinton, Dole

WS2806125996 Tallinn ETA in English 0718 GMT 28 Jun 96

[From the 28 June EESTI PAEVALEHT, p.3 ; "News Bulletin" No. 124]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Lennart Meri commented on his US visit, stating that the promises by President Bill Clinton and the Republican candidate Robert Dole did not differ much, yet did not contain any definite commitments. The Clinton administration assured the Baltic presidents that the first group of new NATO members will not be the last one. Bob Dole, however, placed the Baltic states and Ukraine in the "second category" of new members. Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis expressed his amazement at this grouping, explaining that Ukraine's intent to join NATO has not been mentioned for the last four years by anybody. Ulmanis also quoted US Secretary for Defense William Perry as saying that NATO will offer extra security guarantees to the countries excluded from the first round of admission.

Meri admitted that the Baltic states have little influence, but described the US statements as reassuring. The Baltic presidents received support for the plans concerning NATO from the members of the Congress at a meeting on Wednesday, June 26. The congressmen stressed that the security interests of NATO and the Baltic states will be considered more important than Russia's opposition.

Lennart Meri addressed the Institute for Strategic and International Studies in Washington yesterday and rejected the most-quoted arguments against the enlargement of NATO. Meri compared the Baltic states with Berlin in the days of the Cold War and described the region as a "bomb detonator, which influences the security of the entire continent and, indirectly, that of the American continent."

President Meri will return to Tallinn today.

Estonia: Meri Views U.S. Visit as 'Successful'

LD2806174596 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lennart Meri views his U.S. visit as having been successful; the message in support of the Baltic states received there was very powerful. Meri highly rated President Clinton's words about the first countries to become NATO members not being the last at the time of enlargement.

During his visit, which lasted from 24 to 27 June, Meri, together with the Latvian and Lithuanian heads of state, met about 1,300 individuals in whose hands, according to President Meri, rests political and economic power in the United States. Meri noted that the visit had been previously devised for handing out the West-East Institute's awards to the Baltic states' presidents, however, the fact that Estonia succeeded in including the security issue on the agenda, under the altered circumstances, and with such conviction that President Clinton found it possible to amend the timetable of his European tour, speaks for itself, Meri said. He added that with the NATO enlargement, the U.S. Congress's opinion is also vital, and it is in every way supportive of the Baltic countries.

Estonia: Meri on U.S. Support for Baltic Security

LD3006183496 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri took part in a reception by the U.S. Embassy in a Glehn Palace park today. The reception was dedicated to the 220th anniversary of independence of the United States.

In his speech, Meri emphasized the role of the United States in spreading the ideas of freedom and principles of democracy all over the world. He noted that the United States never recognized the occupation of the Baltic states by the Soviet Union and that it now firmly supports the security and stability of the Baltic states. This was convincingly proven by the recent meetings between the Baltic presidents and U.S. President Bill Clinton, Secretary of Defense William Perry, and leading officials of the U.S. Congress, Meri said.

Meri noted that the forthcoming visit of U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton is also a significant demonstration of support for Estonia.

Latvia

Latvia: Ulmanis on Meeting With Clinton, Reassurances Over NATO

LD2606132296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 26 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Baltic countries will not be shut out of the NATO expansion process, U.S. President Bill Clinton emphasized to the Baltic countries' presidents at their meeting in Washington. He attested that the NATO expansion is an open process, and the United States is not contemplating isolating the Baltic countries. In a telephone interview with Latvian Radio, this is how Latvian president Guntis Ulmanis described the conversation:

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[Begin Ulmanis recording] So we had a certain guarantee given to us of further activity, as the issue of a country's security is not only an external factor of interest to countries outside, but a country's security is also our own internal responsibility. In this connection, President Clinton was interested in how we have continued with the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, how we have proceeded with army discipline, with army training, and so on and so forth. It was unpleasant, perhaps, today to receive news that once again dissent among border guard soldiers has occurred, and I think that we will be forced to take the most stringent measures, and again demand that our army is much stricter than we often [?intended] ourselves.

Another question concerned minorities and the part played by people of various nationalities in our country. Anyway, President Meri and I managed to convince President Clinton — [?and it was not particularly difficult to have to do] — that the minority issue is not a problem for us. Rather, the minority issue is a problem for some other countries. The issue of how it feels for other nationalities [?to integrate] in our country is one that we have undertaken to gradually resolve.

Finally, President Clinton congratulated the three Baltic countries for having in the past two years done so much, and the progress is evident. Of course we are ourselves aware of the shortcomings, but this gives us a certain guarantee and an undertaking to go on with the successful reforms we have embarked on, on the way to the European Union and NATO structures. [end recording]

[Announcer] After their meeting with Clinton, the presidents of the Baltic countries received the prize of the Institute of East-West Studies for their merits in leading their countries and in promoting cooperation, but on the rest of his visit to the United States, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis is yet to meet U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry and U.S. Congressmen.

Latvia: Ulmanis Stresses NATO at Washington News Conference

WS2706134996 Tallinn BNS in English 1405 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Jun 27, BNS — Admission of the Baltic countries to NATO is very important for the security of Europe, Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis told a press conference given by the three Baltic presidents in Washington on June 26.

The Latvian president's press center quotes Ulmanis as saying that "the Baltic countries admission to NATO is not a political, economic or a military issue. It is not a problem for NATO, but it is the question about the security of Europe."

Ulmanis told the press conference that the Baltic states must be among the first countries which will be admitted to the European Union and NATO, because "if the Baltic countries are under threat, it would mean that the security of the whole Europe is in jeopardy," reports the president's press center.

Ulmanis made an appeal to other countries to expand cooperation with Latvia in the frames of the Partnership for Peace Program, as well as proposed opening of a NATO information center in Riga.

He praised the U.S. involvement in the security policy of Latvia and the Baltics emphasizing that the U.S. participation in the European security policy is of vital importance, reports the president's press center.

Ulmanis is also quoted as saying that mutual cooperation of the Baltic states as well as their relations with Russia are the issues of major importance.

"Latvia's policy referring to relations with Russia is aimed at supporting the process of democratic reforms in Russia and promoting Russia's participation in the work of international organizations," said Ulmanis.

Latvia: Ulmanis Meets U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Policy

LD2806151296 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Guntis Ulmanis is to return from his visit to the United States of America on 29 June. During the visit, the Baltic countries' presidents mainly discussed security issues with the U.S. President and secretary of defense. Yesterday in Washington, the presidents of the three Baltic countries met senators from the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. Latvian Radio was told about these talks by the press secetary to the Latvian state president, (?Liga Skrapane):

[(?Skrapane)] During the talks, the presidents of the Baltic countries, including Ulmanis, devoted their attention to various themes of importance to Latvian and U.S. foreign policy. Ulmanis explained to the senators his conviction that NATO expansion is necessary as he sees in it a guarantee of stability and security for the whole continent. He acknowledged the great contribution of the United States in assisting Latvia with the formation of the peacekeeping force and training soldiers. Latvia would be grateful if the United States could find the opportunity to assist Latvia in creating an airspace monitoring system. Another theme covered by Ulmanis

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relates to economic contacts between the United States and Latvia. He expressed his comprehension of U.S. investment as a certain guarantee of security.

[Announcer] Guntis Ulmanis emphasized in the talks that the successful reforms in the Baltic countries can only further add to the appreciation of the need for reforms in Russia.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Brazauskas Unsure Why U.S. Made CFE Concessions to Russia

LD2906192796 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas hopes that the visit to the United States by the three Baltic presidents would have some influence on NATO leaders, however, he doubts whether the United States understood the concern of the three Baltic states regarding the amendment of the Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE] treaty.

The Lithuanian president told the Voice of America [Lithuanian language service] that his visit and the visit of his Latvian and Estonian counterparts to the United States this week should have some influence on the decisions that will be adopted at the meeting of the NATO countries defense ministers to be held at the end of this year and at next year's summit of NATO countries. There, the president said, the main cardinal decisions will be adopted.

The Lithuanian president concluded his four-day visit to the United States and returned to Lithuania on Friday [28 June]. [passage omitted]

The Lithuanian president especially approved of the fact that the presidents of all the three Baltic states had an opportunity to act unanimously and expressed the hope that the position of the presidents of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia was understood.

Meanwhile ELTA news agency reported that having returned to Vilnius on Friday, Brazauskas was in doubt whether the United States understood the concern of the Baltic states concerning the amendment to the CFE Treaty. Brazauskas said that during the meetings with the U.S. officials it had not been explained with absolute clarity why the United States had made concessions to Russia in the negotiations on the amendment of the above treaty. We were told that this was the only point on which an agreement could have been reached, Brazauskas said.

Lithuania: Brazauskas Previews Visit to Germany

LD0107103496 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who returned on 28 June from a long trip to Italy [as heard] and the United States, is leaving for Germany on 3 July for a two-day visit. The main part of this visit are meetings in Bonn on Thursday with German President Roman Herzog and Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Brazauskas reviewed his previous and future visits at a news conference at the Seimas today. Guoda Salciute reports.

[Salciute] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas told a news conference this morning that the main topics in the forthcoming visit to Germany will concern Lithuania's security, economic cooperation between Germany and Lithuania, and the setting up of visa-free travel. According to Brazauskas, countries like Denmark, which have an agreement on visa-free travel with Lithuania, have no complaints about Lithuanian citizens.

During this visit, at the invitation of German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in addition to his meetings in Bonn, the Lithuanian president will also visit Munich, where he will present a report about the economic and legal conditions for business development in Lithuania.

Speaking about the recent visit of the leaders of the three Baltic countries to the United States, the Lithuanian president said that the meetings with the leaders of the U.S. Administration and with members of House and the Senate served as a good opportunity to elaborate on a global problem — the creation of a basis for a Baltic security system and the establishment of such a system for centuries to come.

The Baltic countries do not have ways of guaranteeing their security other than NATO, Algirdas Brazauskas told a news conference today. He added that his meetings in Washington give him the belief that Lithuania will take part in the process of NATO enlargement. [passage omitted]

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